

in order to access that person's bank accounts, credit cards, and other financial assets. Many Americans have lost their life savings and had their credit destroyed as a result of identity theft. Yet the Federal Government continues to encourage such crimes by mandating use of the Social Security number as a uniform ID!

The Identity Theft Prevention Act also prevents the Federal Government from establishing any form of national ID. In 2005, Congress attempted to turn state driver's licensing into a national ID; however, resistance to this unconstitutional and costly mandate on the states has been so intense that today, for all intents and purposes, the Real ID mandate has been nullified. The Identity Theft Prevention Act simply puts the nail in the coffin of the Real ID and similar schemes, thus protecting Americans from having their liberty, property, and privacy violated by private and public sector criminals.

Some members of Congress will claim that the federal government needs the power to monitor Americans in order to allow the government to operate more efficiently. I would remind my colleagues that, in a constitutional republic, the people are never asked to sacrifice their liberties to make the jobs of government officials easier. We are here to protect the freedom of the American people, not to make privacy invasion more efficient.

Mr. Speaker, while I do not question the sincerity of those members who suggest that Congress can ensure that citizens' rights are protected through legislation restricting access to personal information, the only effective privacy protection is to forbid the federal government from mandating national identifiers. Legislative "privacy protections" are inadequate to protect the liberty of Americans for a couple of reasons.

First, it is simply common sense that repealing those federal laws that promote identity theft is more effective in protecting the public than expanding the power of the federal police force. Federal punishment of identity thieves provides cold comfort to those who have suffered financial losses and the destruction of their good reputations as a result of identity theft.

Federal laws are not only ineffective in stopping private criminals, but these laws have not even stopped unscrupulous government officials from accessing personal information. After all, laws purporting to restrict the use of personal information did not stop the well-publicized violations of privacy by IRS officials or the FBI abuses of the Clinton and Nixon administrations.

In one of the most infamous cases of identity theft, thousands of active-duty soldiers and veterans had their personal information stolen, putting them at risk of identity theft. Imagine the dangers if thieves are able to obtain the universal identifier, and other personal information, of millions of Americans simply by breaking, or hacking, into one government facility or one government database?

Second, the federal government has been creating proprietary interests in private information for certain state-favored special interests. Perhaps the most outrageous example of phony privacy protection is the "medical privacy" regulation, that allows medical researchers, certain business interests, and law enforcement officials access to health care information, in complete disregard of the Fifth

Amendment and the wishes of individual patients! Obviously, "privacy protection" laws have proven greatly inadequate to protect personal information when the government is the one seeking the information.

Any action short of repealing laws authorizing privacy violations is insufficient primarily because the federal government lacks constitutional authority to force citizens to adopt a universal identifier for health care, employment, or any other reason. Any federal action that oversteps constitutional limitations violates liberty because it ratifies the principle that the federal government, not the Constitution, is the ultimate judge of its own jurisdiction over the people. The only effective protection of the rights of citizens is for Congress to follow Thomas Jefferson's advice and "bind (the federal government) down with the chains of the Constitution."

Mr. Speaker, those members who are not persuaded by the moral and constitutional reasons for embracing the Identity Theft Prevention Act should consider the American people's opposition to national identifiers. The numerous complaints over the ever-growing uses of the Social Security number show that Americans want Congress to stop invading their privacy. Furthermore, according to a survey by the Gallup company, 91 percent of the American people oppose forcing Americans to obtain a universal health ID.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again call on my colleagues to join me in putting an end to the federal government's unconstitutional use of national identifiers to monitor the actions of private citizens. National identifiers threaten all Americans by exposing them to the threat of identity theft by private criminals and abuse of their liberties by public criminals, while diverting valuable law enforcement resources away from addressing real threats to public safety. In addition, national identifiers are incompatible with a limited, constitutional government. I, therefore, hope my colleagues will join my efforts to protect the freedom of their constituents by supporting the Identity Theft Prevention Act.

THE ANGELES AND SAN
BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOR-
ESTS PROTECTION ACT

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of representing the Foothill communities at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains. Included in my district are the Angeles and the San Bernardino National Forests. These National Forests are two of the most widely visited forests in the Nation. In addition, they provide over 30 percent of the drinking water for Los Angeles County alone. Unfortunately, this area is also prone to devastating wildfires. Ensuring the public safety of our first responders and residents remains a top priority of mine. That is why I have been working for over a year with multiple parties on a proposal to assist our firefighters and preserve recreational activities in the region.

It is also vital that we continue to care for our natural resources. The Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests Protection Act,

which I am introducing today, adds approximately 17,700 acres of forest lands to the Cucamonga and Sheep Mountain Wilderness Areas. With their close proximity to dozens of communities, the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests provide residents with an opportunity to easily enjoy the public lands in their own backyard. It is my hope that this legislation will protect this area for the benefit of future generations.

Throughout this entire process, my number one focus has been to protect our firefighters and other first responders who are responsible for keeping lives, homes and communities safe from approaching fires. I have worked closely with the Los Angeles and the San Bernardino County fire departments and have incorporated their suggestions on how we can make their job easier and safer. I am pleased that this legislation has the support of both the Los Angeles County and the San Bernardino County fire departments as well as the support of local fire chiefs. I will continue to work with our fire departments to ensure they have the resources needed to do their job as safely and effectively as possible.

This legislation also calls on the Forest Service to reduce the severe maintenance backlog that exists in both the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests and to restore valuable recreational opportunities that were lost in the devastating 2009 Station Fire. Numerous facilities and trail markers were damaged during this fire and my legislation calls on the Forest Service to restore the facilities impacted in the Station Fire. This will allow individuals and families to enjoy our public lands for many years to come.

I also want to take this opportunity to note that this legislation will not impact any existing private property or water rights in this area. Multiple recreational uses, including horseback riding as well as hiking currently occur in these National Forests and these activities must be allowed to continue.

As this legislation works its way through the legislative process, I will keep working with all of the interested parties to ensure that our first responders can safely and securely protect our communities from forest fires while also preserving recreational opportunities for everyone.

HONORING INLAND HOSPITAL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Inland Hospital in Waterville, Maine.

Inland Hospital is a 48-bed, not-for-profit, community hospital that was founded in 1943 by a group of osteopathic physicians with a vision of providing compassionate care that focused on the whole patient, not just the disease. Today, that patient-centered approach is alive and well at Inland, where staff provide the kind of care we all want for our own families. Patients are treated with respect and dignity and benefit from an open communication process that delivers an extraordinary experience and the best possible medical outcome.

Inland Hospital has been recently recognized as one of the nation's top rural hospitals

by the Washington, DC based Leapfrog Group. The Leapfrog Survey, which launched in 2001, focuses on four critical areas of patient safety: the use of computer physician order entry to prevent medication errors, standards for doing high-risk procedures, protocols and policies to reduce medical errors and other safe practices recommended by the National Quality Forum and adequate nurse and physician staffing. In addition, hospitals are measured on their progress in preventing infections and other hospital-acquired conditions and adopting policies on the handling of serious medical errors, among other things.

Inland Hospital has displayed a tremendous commitment to providing the best quality health care for their patients. I am proud to congratulate the employees, providers, board members and volunteers for their dedication to providing the best care to our rural communities. Their skills, compassion and dedication make this hospital a well-deserved award recipient.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Inland Hospital for their devotion to ensuring that patients and families receive the best possible health care.

A TRIBUTE TO ROGER MILLIKEN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina has lost a titan of industry and a visionary to establish the modern Republican Party with the loss of Roger Milliken of Spartanburg.

On this historic day of swearing-in the largest number of Republican Congressmen from South Carolina is more than 130 years, it is fitting to recognize the benefactor of establishing the two-party system in our state with an editorial from The Spartanburg Herald-Journal published December 31, 2010.

ROGER MILLIKEN LEFT HIS IMPRINT ON MOST ASPECTS OF LIFE IN THE UPSTATE ENDURING LEGACY

No one in the 20th century had the impact on Spartanburg that Roger Milliken did.

The businessman, philanthropist, political mover and conservationist, who died Thursday, affected most aspects of life in the Upstate.

Spartanburg has the business climate it enjoys today because of Milliken. He saw the potential in this area and brought his corporate headquarters and his research center here. Milliken's presence and leadership led to the tremendous investment that European textile equipment manufacturers made in Spartanburg, and that international presence helped bring BMW here.

Milliken doggedly fought to protect the nation's textile industry and American jobs from foreign competition. At the same time, he rebalanced his own business to adjust to world markets, finding new areas in which to compete. His foresight included knowing when to step down from the leadership of his company and paving the way for it to continue without him.

Milliken was a political leader, supporting candidates in local, state and national politics. Long before South Carolina enjoyed its early spot in the presidential primary season, national candidates came to Spartanburg, raising the community's pro-

file, because of the need to secure Milliken's support.

He invested in the educational life of this community. Wofford and Converse colleges would not be the institutions they are today without his generous support. He helped found Spartanburg Day School.

Milliken recognized that this region would need first-class air transportation to compete with other areas and attract industry. He helped establish Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, and the airport commission, for the first time in its more than 50-year history, now has to look for a new chairman. It would be appropriate for the airport to be renamed in Milliken's honor.

He also left his mark on Spartanburg in a very visible way. He was passionate about trees, creating arboretums at his research center and on the Wofford campus. His Noble Tree Foundation has helped to improve the environment in many cities.

One of Spartanburg's most popular parks is not a public park at all. It is the grounds of the Milliken Research Center, a beautiful landscape planted with a multitude of diverse trees. It has been open to the public so that generations of Spartanburg families have been able to enjoy feeding ducks at the pond or walking the sunny grounds.

Many wealthy businessmen focus on building their companies, their wealth and their power. Milliken was accomplished in these areas, but he also focused on building this community and region.

His legacy includes the education and transportation systems we rely on today, an economic climate that enabled Spartanburg to weather the loss of the textile industry and even much of the beauty of this community.

Milliken left instructions that his epitaph would read simply, "Builder." It is accurate. More than anyone else in the previous century, Roger Milliken built Spartanburg.

INTRODUCING THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Prescription Drug Affordability Act. This legislation ensures that millions of Americans, including seniors, have access to affordable pharmaceutical products. My act removes needless government barriers to importing pharmaceuticals and it protects Internet pharmacies, which are making affordable prescription drugs available to millions of Americans, from being strangled by federal regulation.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Act brings competition to the market for pharmaceutical products by allowing anyone wishing to import a drug to simply submit an application to the FDA, which then must approve the drug unless the FDA finds the drug is either not approved for use in the U.S. or is adulterated or misbranded. This process will make safe and affordable imported medicines affordable to millions of Americans. Mr. Speaker, letting the free market work is the best means of lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

I need not remind my colleagues that many Americans impacted by the high costs of prescription medicine have demanded Congress reduce the barriers which prevent American consumers from purchasing imported pharmaceuticals. Congress has responded to these

demands by repeatedly passing legislation liberalizing the rules governing the importation of pharmaceuticals. However, implementation of this provision has been blocked by the federal bureaucracy. It is time Congress stood up for the American consumer and removed all unnecessary regulations on importing pharmaceuticals.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Act also protects consumers' access to affordable medicine by forbidding the federal government from regulating any Internet sales of FDA-approved pharmaceuticals by State-licensed pharmacists.

As I am sure my colleagues are aware, the Internet makes pharmaceuticals and other products more affordable and accessible for millions of Americans. However, the federal government has threatened to destroy this option by imposing unnecessary and unconstitutional regulations on Web sites that sell pharmaceuticals. Any federal regulations would inevitably drive up prices of pharmaceuticals, thus depriving many consumers of access to affordable prescription medications.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to make pharmaceuticals more affordable and accessible by removing barriers to the importation of pharmaceuticals and protecting legitimate Internet pharmacies from needless regulation by cosponsoring the Prescription Drug Affordability Act.

MARDEE XIFARAS: SOUTHCOAST WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 5, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the New Bedford Standard Times, an excellent newspaper, regularly recognizes leaders of the community that it serves by designating a SouthCoast Woman of the Year and a SouthCoast Man of the Year. This year's SouthCoast Woman of the Year is an extraordinary person, who is a leader in so many fields of endeavor that I think the Standard Times must have been tempted to call her "Women of the Year."

MarDee Xifaras is an able attorney, who has been a leader politically, economically, educationally, and in civic affairs in general. Most recently she has been a spearhead in getting the State of Massachusetts to take over the Southern New England Law School, creating for the first time in Massachusetts a state university law school, to the great benefit of the population of that area, and I believe to the practice of law in Massachusetts, by providing a source of socially-conscious graduates for years to come.

MarDee Xifaras is an extraordinary force for a wide range of good causes, and I am delighted that she has been recognized by the New Bedford Standard Times, but not surprised. I've had the benefit of her advice, counsel and friendship, as did my late and much-missed predecessor, Gary Studts, whose work in this body benefitted enormously from her input, as has mine.

Mr. Speaker, as an example of what citizenship is at its best, at a time when we very much need that, I ask that the New Bedford Standard Times article about Woman of the Year MarDee Xifaras be printed here.