

They also serve on boards of several important arts organizations. Mr. Hendel is on the boards of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, New Group, Culture Project, St. Ann's Warehouse, Afropop.org, and the African Museum for Art, and serves on various advisory committees at Yale University. Ms. Hendel serves on the boards of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, LABYRINTH Theater, The Play Company, and the Yale School of Drama Advisory Board.

In addition to their substantial contributions of their time and talents to JTS, Ms. Hendel received a Very Important Parent Award from the Board of Jewish Education and together they have been honored by Westchester/Fairfield County's Crohn's and Colitis Foundation and the Westchester Jewish Center of Marmaroneck.

Married for thirty-three years, the Hendels have three adult children and a son-in-law—Abby and Guy, Sam, and Joe—and one grandson.

The Hendels' commitment to community service and investment in the arts is greatly appreciated and extolled. I urge you to join me today in recognizing their outstanding achievements.

REIMBURSE THE VA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 814, the "Medicare VA Reimbursement Act of 2011."

This legislation authorizes the establishment of a Medicare VA reimbursement program where HHS reimburses the VA for the provision of health care to Medicare eligible veterans for the treatment of non-service connected conditions at VA medical facilities.

Today, there are veterans who have earned VA health care benefits with their service to our country, as well as Medicare benefits by paying into the Social Security system during their working years. Even though these individuals have clearly earned both of these benefits, current law unfairly prohibits them from using their Medicare benefits at VA facilities even though they may feel more comfortable seeking care among their fellow veterans from VA providers who specialize in caring for veterans.

This is also inconsistent with the authorities granted to other federal entities such as the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Department of Defense's (DOD) TRICARE for Life that are allowed to bill Medicare. IHS and DOD are able to augment their resources with Medicare collections and reinvest the extra funding back into their programs and services. H.R. 814 would provide equity in such billing practices among the federal entities. In other words, the VA would be able to access an important new source of revenues from Medicare which may be reinvested to further strengthen the VA's health care system.

In detail, this legislation requires the Secretaries of VA and HHS to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) no later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of the Act. The MOU must establish such program elements as the frequency of reimburse-

ment, the billing system, the data sharing agreement, and the payment rate. H.R. 814 also provides some guidelines on setting the payment rate so that the terms that contributed to the failure of the Medicare DOD Subvention Demonstration Project are not repeated again. For example, this legislation prohibits setting a reimbursement rate which is less than 100% of the amount that Medicare would pay a participating provider. It also prohibits annual caps on reimbursement and does not allow for a maintenance of effort requirement, which refers to the requirement that VA maintain a certain level of spending before they can be reimbursed from HHS.

Finally, H.R. 814 requires an annual report to Congress providing program data, as well as a triennial GAO report assessing the program impact.

I urge your support of this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—TESS MICHAELS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved

for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work. I salute you.

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

The Red Cross has been an integral part of my life since I founded the school chapter as a freshman and served in the Dallas Red Cross as a Tiffany Circle Intern and the Dallas Red Cross Youth Leadership Council. I hope to inspire my peers to realize that work is its own reward and giving of one's time is the greatest gift. I have seen a strong spirit of volunteerism in the members in installing smoke detectors, organizing fundraisers, and coordinating blood drives. Over 200 members are now actively involved, and by inspiring others to volunteer, the impact on the community increases exponentially. Red Cross blood collections in January were the lowest seen in a decade due to the severe winter storms. I wanted to play an active role and organized a large blood drive as a part of my CYAC community project. I also had the privilege of serving as an attorney in the Plano Municipal Teen Court. I defend and prosecute students from different backgrounds and my hope is that students realize the importance of not letting their impulses take over their common sense and deter them from having a bright future ahead.

—Tess Michaels

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Local Taxpayer Relief Act of 2011, a bill to reauthorize the Impact Aid program.

The majority of public school funding in America comes from local property taxes. However, in areas with military bases, Indian lands, national parks, federal low-rent housing, or other federal property, local school districts cannot collect needed revenue.

Without relief: taxpayers in these federally impacted areas would need to pay more in local taxes to support the same level of education as areas with no federal impact. This is patently unfair.

In 1950, Congress recognized the need to address this inequity and created Impact Aid, the original federal K-12 education law. Impact Aid helps local taxpayers by reimbursing school districts for the costs of hosting federal property and educating federally connected children. Today, Impact Aid supports over 12 million children in more than 1,300 school districts in all 50 states, DC, and U.S. territories.

In Hawaii, we have Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine bases where our brave men and women in uniform are stationed. Thousands of military-dependent children are students in Hawaii schools, but our state cannot collect local taxes from these bases. No matter what type of land you live on—and especially if your family serves our nation—all our children deserve a high-quality education.

Impact Aid is especially important now, as school districts nationwide continue to recover from the greatest recession since the Great Depression. Impact Aid funds come with few strings attached, helping districts support a wide range of vital services.

Impact Aid is currently Title 8 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ESEA, also known as No Child Left Behind. As we work to reauthorize ESEA in the House Education and Workforce Committee this year, I am optimistic that we can improve Impact Aid in a bipartisan way.

My bill increases efficiency, eliminates subjectivity, and seeks funding equity. This bill has strong bipartisan support. The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, NAFIS, worked tirelessly to develop this bill with the broad input of these impacted districts. The Impact Aid Coalition includes 105 Members of Congress.

The bill includes the following major improvements: maintains stability for school districts with military bases going through housing renovation and privatization; allows for an updated "current year count" when districts see a major influx of students due to troop deployment or other federal action; and expedites the U.S. Department of Education's payments, which currently run up to four years behind.

I thank my principal co-sponsor Congresswoman KRISTI NOEM of South Dakota for her partnership. I urge my colleagues to support this bill to provide relief to local taxpayers and ensure that all our children receive the education they deserve.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE REV.
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS
DEATH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today the nation takes pause to observe the 43rd anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a Member of the Select Committee on Assassinations that reinvestigated the murder of Dr. King, this day reminds me of that horrible day in 1968. Forty-three years ago today, the man who dreamed of a "more perfect union" was gunned down by American terrorist in Memphis, Tennessee, but his dream continues to become reality today. One cannot observe this day without reflecting on the life and legacy of a man who brought hope and healing to America. This anniversary reminds us that nothing is impossible when we are guided by the better angels of our nature.

The story of Dr. King is pressed upon me. I am reminded of my work with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and hearing Dr. King's inspiring words fill a great void in our Nation, and answered our collective longing to become a country that truly lived by its noblest principles. Yet, Dr. King knew that it wasn't enough just to talk the talk, that he had to walk the walk for his words to be credible. And so we remember this man of action, who put his life on the line for freedom and justice every day.

We honor the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings, and even bombings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership, but kept on marching and protesting and organizing anyway.

Dr. King once said that we all have to decide whether we "will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent and nagging question, he said, is 'what are you doing for others?'"

And when Dr. King talked about the end of his mortal life in one of his last sermons, on February 4, 1968 in the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church, even then he lifted up the value of service as the hallmark of a full life. "I'd like somebody to mention on that day Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to give his life serving others," he said. "I want you to say on that day, that I did try in my life . . . to love and serve humanity."

Mr. Speaker, these words were spoken by Dr. King two months to the day before his death. Thus it is 43 years after his death, Dr. King continues to teach us all.

Mr. Speaker, during these difficult days as we observe violence throughout the world, all should take pause to the message of non-violence and speak as Dr. King spoke truth to power.

Dr. King's dream did not stop at racial equality, his ultimate dream was one of human equality. There is no doubt that Dr. King supported freedom and justice for every individual in America. We continue that fight today and forever, in the great spirit that inspired the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all my colleagues for being here and remembering Dr. King's dream and for all that has been done to keep his dream alive.

PROTECT WORKERS RIGHTS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss H.R. 807, a bill which would allow collective bargaining over compensation related labor-management disputes. Examples of such disputes include locality pay, overtime pay, shift differential pay, and performance pay.

I would like to emphasize that my bill continues to protect the basic rates of pay so that VA employees cannot bargain over the federal pay scales. However, I have heard stories where a VA nurse's overtime pay is miscalculated but there is no recourse for addressing this inaccuracy.

H.R. 807 would also help VA with their recruitment and retention efforts since prospective employees would have the assurance that they will be treated fairly when it comes to the enforcement of pay laws and regulations.

I believe this bill is just the first step in protecting the employment rights of VA healthcare providers. It is the right thing to do for those hard-working men and women who care for our veterans every day.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—GARRETT HERINGTON

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

I had the opportunity to help out a charitable organization called V.O.L.T, which stands for Vision of Light Team. The 'Vision of Light Team' is an eyeglass mission. They have been to Cameroon twice and recently to Guatemala. They hold vision clinics and distribute used eyeglasses to those in need. They have also trained a team in Cameroon to do vision clinics. V.O.L.T. regularly sends both eyeglasses and money to support this ongoing mission. I worked directly with the head of the charity to clean, organize and label the operational items so the charity is ready for future missions. The project was done over the course of 4 weeks and the main project was preparing, cleaning and labeling eyeglass donations for a future trip to Cameroon, Africa.