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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:

Beginning last semester, one of my best friends and I started visiting Frankford Middle School to partake in their Friday Night Academy event, where high school volunteers such as ourselves tutor younger students. We made a habit of going to many of these sessions to help several students with assignments and homework that they had missed or fallen behind on. I continued to incorporate this as a part of my service project for CYAC. As I have volunteered at my old school over these past few months, I have come to realize that it is extremely important for us to give back to the generations behind us and provide them with an even better education than we had received before them. If younger students do not fully comprehend their math or other lessons before reaching high school, chances are they will be less inclined to do as well as those with a more solid educational foundation, something that every good student deserves. I hope that I have been able to help teach or reinforce some of those concepts with the students I have spent time working with at Frankford, and that I will continue to do so to help them with and prepare them for high school and the rest of their academic career.

—Zach Ralstin

HUMAN RIGHTS IN IRAN

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the atrocious record of human rights in Iran. Across the Middle East, we have seen a growing pressure for change, with individuals standing up for their right to live free. Yet, Iran remains a theocratic and violently repressive dictatorship.

Iran's opposition Green Movement—reinvigorated by recent protests in the Middle East—has faced brutal suppression, including beatings and arrests. A recent response by the Iranian leadership to a weekly Tuesday protest calling for reforms included a brutal assault on demonstrators. More disturbing, there has been a spike in executions—with the International Campaign for Human Rights estimating more than 90 individuals including political prisoners have been executed over the past two months.

Clearly, any facade of Presidential and Parliamentary elections is exposed through this

record of appalling religious and military control and abuse of the Iranian people.

In Iran, there is no freedom of speech, no freedom of the press, no freedom of religion—with life imprisonment or death meted out as punishments for these "crimes."

As Americans, we—along with our international allies—must speak out against these abuses. The United Nations Human Rights Council should appoint a special expert to monitor and document the deterioration of human rights in Iran and I urge this Congress and our Administration to continue to impose and broaden strict U.S. sanctions, including on the companies that provide the technology that enables government monitoring and suppression of dissent.

As a nation, we must support the desire of any people to live free and stand strong against abusive regimes.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE POMPEO

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 658) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act. I appreciate Chairman MICA and Chairman PETRI for crafting a fiscally conservative bill that meets the significant needs of our aviation sector.

Having previously run an aerospace company for 10 years and now having the honor of representing the Air Capital of the World, Wichita, Kansas, I know first hand the importance of this legislation.

First of all, I want to thank Chairman MICA for including a provision of mine in the Manager's Amendment that will allow the FAA to increase the number of UAS Test Ranges around the country. These Test Ranges are essential to fostering innovation and private sector development of the Unmanned Aerial System industry. If implemented properly by the FAA, I believe research and development and manufacturing hubs will grow up around these ranges. I know of several communities in Kansas—including El Dorado, Salina, and Herington—where a Test Range not only makes sense, but could help stimulate the local economy.

Second, I want to thank the Chairman for not including something in this bill: User Fees. Aviation user fees would devastate the general aviation industry. User Fees would place an unnecessary administrative burden and unwarranted additional costs on the system users. Simply put, these Fees would hurt the General Aviation manufacturing industry, which has already lost tens of thousands of employees due to the global recession.

Lastly, I want to highlight the inclusion of a Repair Stations provision. This section imple-

ments a risk-based inspection regime consistent with the U.S.–E.U. aviation safety bilateral agreement. This provision supports 130,000 American jobs, including many in my home District.

This is a good bill which deserves this body's strong support. I urge my colleagues to join with me in voting for this important legislation.

SHIRLEY ATENCIO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Shirley Atencio, of Center, Colorado. Ms. Atencio was recently named Center Teacher of the Year for her outstanding efforts in the classroom. As a veteran teacher of 33 years, she has had a profound effect on the students and parents of her community.

Ms. Atencio earned Teacher of the Year honors this year because of her increased role in curriculum planning around the district. She is a leader among the teaching community in modernizing and streamlining lesson strategies. Largely due to her efforts, students have access to a clearer and more focused education. One of her primary goals is teaching self respect and reliance to her students and to ensure that they have a strong affluence in the English language.

Mr. Speaker it is an honor to recognize Shirley Atencio today. Her leadership within the community is an important part of the area's success. I have no doubt she will continue to be an excellent teacher for many years.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010–2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—GRANT POWELL

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 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."

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A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

For my CYAC community service project, I volunteered as an attorney at the Collin County Teen Court, providing 30 hours of service between October 2010 and January 2011. The mission of Teen Court is to teach first-time juvenile misdemeanor offenders a lesson by sentencing the defendants with service hours and jury duty. The jury at Teen Court hears the testimony of the defendants and the arguments of the attorneys in order to come to a decision. A judge presides over the court proceeding and makes the court session formal and official. Teen Court is vital to the lives of young people in the Collin County community. Not only do the defendants in Teen Court begin to strive for better character; the jury members that hear the testimony of the defendants make sound changes in their own lives also. Through my work at Teen Court I have helped the teens who have made poor judgment. My job as an attorney has been crucial to bring the facts of the cases to the jury so that they can deliver fair verdicts. In addition, my experience in the Teen Court has inspired me to consider law as a potential career choice.

—Grant Powell

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 225. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 225.

OPPOSITION TO EFFORTS TO EXPAND A FEDERALLY-FUNDED SCHOOL VOUCHER PROGRAM IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Ms. NORTON. I submit the following letters:

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT

OF COLUMBIA,

Washington, DC, March 30, 2011.

Senator HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: We write to express our opposition to renewed efforts to expand a federally-funded school voucher program in the District of Columbia. We appreciate your interest in providing support to public education in the District. We strongly believe, however, that federal funds should be invested in the existing public education program—both the public schools and the public charter schools—rather than diverted to private schools.

We support the decision by Congress and the President several years ago to phase out the voucher program. Multiple US Department of Education reports of the program indicate that the program has not lived up to the promises made by proponents. Moreover, a Government Accountability Office report revealed that many of the voucher students attend private schools with fewer resources and lower standards than our public schools. The evidence is clear that the use of vouchers has had no statistically significant impact on overall student achievement in math or reading, or for students from schools in need of improvement.

We have serious concerns about using government funds to send our students to private schools that do not have to adhere to the same standards and accountability as do public and public charter schools. For example, private religious schools, which 80% of voucher students attend, operate outside the anti-discrimination provisions of the District's Human Rights Act. Moreover, the voucher proposal is inequitable: if fully funded, the authorization would provide at least \$8,000 per student for vouchers, but only about \$723 per public charter school student, and even less—about \$437 per public school student.

Although we believe that students who are already receiving a voucher should have the opportunity to maintain and use that voucher through graduation from high school, we do not support expansion of the program to new students. The District has devoted considerable funds to public education. As a result, parents in the District have both public school choice and access to the most extensive set of alternatives to traditional public schools in the country.

We appreciate your willingness to take into account the wishes of the District's elected officials on the quintessentially local matter of education as you consider this issue.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. BROWN,
Councilmember, At-Large.

MARY M. CHEH,
Councilmember, Ward 3.

JIM GRAHAM,
Councilmember, Ward 1.

PHIL MENDELSON,
Councilmember, At-Large.

TOMMY WELLS,
Councilmember, Ward 6.

COUNCIL OF

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Washington, DC, March 30, 2011.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI: We write to express our opposition to renewed efforts to expand a federally-funded school voucher

program in the District of Columbia. We appreciate your interest in providing support to public education in the District. We strongly believe, however, that federal funds should be invested in the existing public education program—both the public schools and the public charter schools—rather than diverted to private schools.

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Councilmember, At-Large.

TOMMY WELLS,
Councilmember, Ward 6.

COREY LAUGHLIN TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker it brings me great pleasure to pay tribute to a young man who has exhibited a level of caring and selflessness well beyond his years. Corey Laughlin of Pueblo, Colorado, has taken it upon himself to bring the sport of baseball to underprivileged children who play in the Runyan Field Baseball Program.