

Another group most in need of medical care in our country—the poor—would see cuts of about \$771 billion from Medicaid over 10 years. Medicaid would be converted into a block grant program, which won't reflect the actual need for Medicaid services. Converting Medicaid into a fixed funding stream would raise the cost of nursing home care for millions of families, potentially reducing the quality of care. It would also impact seniors and disabled individuals who want home- or community-based support as opposed to expensive institutional care.

Seventeen governors, including our former colleague and now Governor of Hawaii Neil Abercrombie, have written to the Speaker in opposition to the Republican plan to block grant Medicaid. They know that this would place an unfair burden on the cost of health care on the states. Under the Republican plan, Hawaii alone would lose \$2.8 billion in federal Medicaid dollars over 10 years. This means that 29,600 seniors could lose their Medicaid coverage or see reduced benefits due to the proposed Republican cut, resulting in 161,500 children losing their Medicaid coverage.

In addition to the problematic changes that this budget makes to Medicare and Medicaid, this short-sighted budget prevents us from investing in our workforce and growing our economy. The Republican budget cuts education and job training by more than 25 percent below current levels. Pell grants, funding for low-income elementary and secondary schools, and workforce training programs would be targeted for steep cuts. The bill also makes drastic cuts to local law enforcement and first responder programs at a time when many states, including Hawaii, are dealing with severe budget deficits.

This short-sighted budget also fails to invest in infrastructure or create jobs in the transportation sector. While I'm working with my colleagues in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to approve a new multi-year highway and transit program, this Republican budget withdraws about \$318 billion in resources from highway, transit, and other transportation initiatives over the next 10 years. In the meantime, commuters are paying higher gas prices at the pump, seeking alternative modes of transportation, and dealing with congestion on our nation's roads, which along with our public transportation, were given a grade of "D" by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The resolution offered by the Republicans further fails to make critical investments in research and development (R&D) in science, health, and renewable energy, undermining our global competitiveness in R&D. Hawaii's families pay higher energy costs than anyone else in the country. Under this bill, oil companies can continue to get subsidies while making record profits. Funding for development of renewable energy sources is slashed by 60 percent, ensuring that we will remain dependent on imported fossil fuels and sending a signal to the markets that clean energy jobs are not a priority.

Instead of supporting the draconian cuts proposed by this Republican plan, I will vote for the fairer and more balanced plans proposed as alternatives to H. Con. Res. 34. These alternatives address our deficit in a more responsible way by assisting our most vulnerable during a time of fragile economic recovery. I will support investments that will

create jobs and ensure that our country remains the leader in innovation and the engine driving the global economy.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H. Con. Res. 34.

HONORING REVEREND OBBIE L. BURNS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, Reverend Obbie L. Burns today begins a new chapter in his life and the life of New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia; and

Whereas, Reverend Obbie L. Burns under the guidance and favor of God, will this day be installed as Pastor of the New Macedonia Baptist Church and under his leadership he will be charged to pioneer and sustain New Macedonia Baptist Church, as an instrument in our community that uplifts the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens; and

Whereas, this remarkable and tenacious man of God has given hope to the hopeless, fed the hungry and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Reverend Burns is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared not only with his Church, but with our District and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Reverend Obbie L. Burns on his installation as Pastor;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR. do hereby proclaim April 17, 2011 as Reverend Obbie L. Burns Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 17th day of April, 2011.

HONORING MS. ISABEL AFANADOR

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman, Ms. Isabel Afanador. Isabel Afanador was born in Bogota, Colombia. Quite accomplished, she has two Bachelor's degrees in Social Work, from the University Externado de Colombia and Florida International University. Additionally, she earned her Masters of Social Work from Florida International University.

Upon graduation in Colombia, she was hired as the Director of Social Services of Laminas del Caribe S.A.

In 1978, Isabel Afanador made South Florida her home. One year later she began to work for the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services as a caseworker in mental health. She was later promoted to the Program Manager position, which she held from 1988 to 1994.

From 1995 to 1998 she was the Department of Children and Families District Licensing Coordinator, whose responsibility it was to en-

sure quality licensure of all residential providers and day care facilities.

In 1998, Isabel left the child welfare arena to work for the Department of Juvenile Justice, where for two years she managed an operational division responsible for intake, assessment, detention screening, and case management of the Miami-Dade district.

In August 2000, she was promoted to Chief Probation Officer for the Miami-Dade Juvenile Justice Program, and held the position of South Regional Director from 2008–2011.

Ms. Isabel Afanador has used her many talents and skills for the benefit of the community. This includes freely sharing her time serving with the Children's Trust Board, Neat Staff board, Abriendo Puertas board, Youth Task Force board, Criminal Justice Council and a member of St. Brendan's Parrish.

Mr. Speaker, I ask those present today to join me in honoring Ms. Isabel Afanador and commending her many achievements and service on behalf of the state of Florida.

HONORING STUDENT VETERAN AND COMMUNITY LEADER MATT RANDLE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize former United States Army Combat Medic and current University of Arizona student Matt Randle.

Over the course of his career in the Army, Matt received two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals and two Good Conduct Medals for his service.

Following his distinguished service to our country Matt returned to his hometown of Tucson, Arizona and enrolled at the University of Arizona. Once on the UA campus, Matt began working with UA President Robert Shelton and his staff to develop and implement an initiative for returning veterans. I am proud to say that today the University of Arizona, located in my congressional district, has one of the most progressive and impressive veteran education and service models in the country including a student run veteran's office.

Matt's leadership has also played an integral role in the prosperity of the UA Veterans club. This club has received numerous awards including the "club" and "Philanthropic Group" of the year awards for the 2009–2010 academic school year on the UA campus and the Student Veterans of America "club of the year award."

Additionally, Matt will receive the UA's 2011 Robie Award which is issued to students who show personal integrity, initiative, cooperativeness, enthusiasm, humility, well-rounded interests, active participation in student affairs, service to the university and willingness to give more than required, and show a love of God and country. Thankfully, upon graduation Matt will not be leaving Tucson; he will be attending the University of Arizona Rogers College Of Law in the fall of 2011.

Each day more veterans return home from the Middle East conflicts. Matt Randle's ambition and leadership both at the UA and nationally will certainly be of great benefit to our returning veterans.

I am pleased to acknowledge and thank my constituent and friend, Matt Randle of the University of Arizona for his leadership, service and outstanding contributions to our community.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Ryan budget. There are many reasons to oppose this budget.

Among them is the unconscionable provision that ends the Medicare guarantee of health care for our nation's seniors.

Since many of my colleagues have already spoken about the serious negative impact the Ryan Budget will have on Medicare, I will focus my comments on another egregious provision that unravels the Medicaid safety net.

The Republican budget before this House cuts support for seniors in nursing homes, disabled individuals and low-income children who depend on Medicaid.

This proposal to starve Medicaid of funds is nothing more than a heartless assault on America's poorest and most vulnerable—our children, seniors, the disabled and minority communities who rely on Medicaid for their health care.

Last year alone, 60 million Americans were served by Medicaid. Thirty million of those were children.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, if the Republican budget were to become law, states which are already buried in debt would face significant challenges in achieving enough cost savings to mitigate the loss of Federal funding.

As a result: states would likely begin to limit eligibility; Medicaid enrollees would have limited access to care and higher out-of-pocket costs and health care providers would lose money due to more uncompensated care and lost coverage.

In my district, where more than 250,000 residents are uninsured and tens of thousands more rely on Medicaid for their health care, this extreme Republican budget will be disastrous.

There are better and fairer ways to address our country's deficit that will protect the Medicaid safety net, create jobs, protect our seniors and invest in our children and the future of our country.

It is a mystery to me why Republicans are willing to fight to protect the tax cuts for big oil and the super wealthy and sacrifice millions of the poorest and most vulnerable Americans who will lose their medical and long-term care.

Democrats will fight to ensure this proposal is never enacted, and I encourage all my colleagues to oppose this cruel and shortsighted budget.

HONORING MRS. MARY KELLOGG BELL FOR HER DEDICATION TO HER FELLOW NORTH CAROLINIANS

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mary Kellogg Bell for a life dedicated to helping others in North Carolina.

Mary Bell was born on May 4, 1916. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1937 with a degree in physical education, she worked as Head Counselor for Merrywood Camp for girls and in 1939, married her husband, Joseph Oscar Bell, Jr.

In 1951, Mrs. Bell founded the Glen Arden Camp for girls, which has enriched the lives of children around the country by exposing them to the natural beauty of Western North Carolina. In 1955, Mrs. Bell went on to become the first woman to serve on the Henderson County School Board. Mrs. Bell continues to volunteer as the Chair of the Welcoming Committee at her retirement home and helps organize transportation for retirees to get to the dialysis clinic.

It is an honor to represent selfless, hard-working citizens like Mrs. Mary Kellogg Bell. Her devotion is a great source of pride to me and to Western North Carolina. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mrs. Mary Kellogg Bell for her lasting impact on society.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING
THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM BREEHEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Abraham Breehey, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Assistant to the International President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. A loving father, husband, and friend, Abe passed away, at just 35, on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at INOVA Fairfax Hospital in Virginia from brain tumor complications.

Abe was born in 1976 in Binghamton, New York to Ray and Carol Breehey. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Sienna College in Loudonville, NY, his Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany, and graduated from the Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School. Prior to joining the Boilermakers in 2004, Abe served as Legislative Assistant for Representative LLOYD DOGGETT (TX-25).

Throughout his life, Abe championed fundamental labor rights. He represented the Boilermakers on issues regarding the effects of energy policy and climate change on workers. Abe also testified in front of multiple U.S. Senate Committees and represented the Boilermakers in international negotiations regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In addition, Abe advised the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department as Chairman of the Department's Legislative Task Force.

Abe was a leading voice in the labor movement and was widely respected by his friends and colleagues. He was known for his passion, his warm personality, and his negotiating skill to merge both ideological and political goals into a practical solution.

Abe is survived by his wife, Sonya, his beloved daughter, Abigail, his father, Ray, his mother, Carol, and his sister, Rachel. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Breehey family. Abe was a good man who will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and the labor movement which he represented.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ABRAHAM
BREEHEY, 1976-2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn that Abraham Breehey passed away yesterday from a brain tumor and stroke. Abe was the Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Assistant to the International President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers. Abe also served as Chairman of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department's Legislative Task Force.

Abe was only 34 years old.

His death is a tragedy for his family and a loss for the working men and women of America on whose behalf he was so deeply committed.

I share in sadness and reflection with Hawaii's members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers, Locals 90 and 627.

It is always sad when we lose a labor leader, especially one so young and with such promise. I have been told that Abe was a passionate advocate for working people around the world. He was well-respected in the labor community for using his sharp intellect to build consensus across party lines.

Abe has testified in front of several U.S. Senate Committees, and he represented the Boilermakers in international negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Breehey family and the U.S. labor movement.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL BILL WILLIAMS AND GEORGIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

HON. ROB WOODALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Bill Williams and the Georgia Army National Guard Agricultural Development Team. Colonel Williams will be leading the Guard's Agricultural Development Team on a year-long deployment to Afghanistan at the end of April 2011. These brave citizen-soldiers are not only going into the theater to assist our men and women on the ground as they engage insurgents and terrorists but also