

OPEC, nations to the U.S. antitrust laws, prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage and would protect consumers from price gouging of gasoline.

You do not have to look very hard to see that the American consumer is hurting. And if you ask people on the street what worries them most, the majority will tell you that it is the price of gasoline. American families and businesses are yet again paying record prices for gasoline. The retail price of gasoline has jumped and is now in the range of \$4 per gallon. Driving should not have to be a luxury. Americans today are spending far too much of their paychecks at the pump.

In my home State of Michigan, gas prices earlier this month reached their highest levels ever at \$4.22 per gallon. Figures released by the AAA Michigan show that the \$4.22 per gallon state average surpassed the previous record of \$4.21 per gallon set in July 2008.

My bill, once and for all, will crack down on foreign oil cartels. Currently, based on the sovereign immunity doctrine, foreign nations and businesses they control may avoid accountability under U.S. antitrust law. This bill would eliminate the doctrine and allow antitrust law to apply to anticompetitive cartels.

This legislation, the "Oil Consumer Protection Act of 2011" would:

Exempt OPEC and other nations from the provisions of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products. (OPEC currently claims sovereign immunity by saying its actions are "governmental activity," which is protected, rather than "commercial activity," which is not.)

Make clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

Authorize lawsuits in U.S. federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

Amend the Clayton Act to prohibit oil and gas companies from unilaterally withholding supply with the intent of raising prices or creating a shortage.

Direct several studies, including a Justice Department/Federal Trade Commission study of mergers in the oil and gas industry, and a GAO study of whether government consent decrees in oil mergers have been effective.

Direct the Attorney General and Federal Trade Commission Chairman to establish a joint federal/state task force with state attorneys general to investigate information sharing among oil companies.

Would empower the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general to institute civil and criminal penalties for fuel price gouging during periods proclaimed by the President as an international crisis affecting oil markets.

It is time someone did something about our outrageous gas prices. I hope Congress has the sense to act on this legislation immediately.

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN SCHOOL'S EIGHTH GRADE CLASS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, Dr. BURGESS and I rise today to celebrate the outstanding service and accomplishments of Crown of Life Lutheran School's eighth grade class. This group of nine students demonstrates a level of commitment and philanthropy positioning them heads and shoulders above their peers. Their dedication to anticipating and seeing to the needs of their community provides me with great hope for the future of America. Today's students are tomorrow's C.E.O.s, Chief Surgeons, and Presidents. These eighth graders will one day make decisions that will determine what this nation looks like in the years to come. We have every confidence that we are in good hands. They have already learned the most valuable lesson—leadership starts with service.

Throughout the 2011 school year, the eighth grade class proved themselves to be extraordinary leaders through their service to the students at Crown of Life Lutheran School. Every day, they cleaned the lunchroom and assisted in the school's weekly assemblies. Monthly, they helped the school set up for Colleyville Chamber of Commerce Luncheons. This Spring, the girls basketball team helped their school to win a second place at the State tournament. The boys made an impressive showing as well, placing fourth in their tournament.

These remarkable students have participated in numerous community projects as well. They helped to organize a bingo night for Finley Elliot, a three year-old who just completed a successful kidney transplant in April of 2011. The \$5,000 earnings from the event provided Finley and his family a much needed reprieve from the extensive medical costs. They also volunteered a day to clean up Lakeview Park in Grapevine in order to encourage the maintenance of public parks for the use of the community. The class also assembled care packages and wrote dozens of notes by hand to send to our soldiers overseas.

We know that Crown of Life Lutheran School is proud to claim these star eighth graders as their own, and we are proud to offer our sincerest congratulations to Hannah Andersson, Zachary Dayley, Jacob Diamond, Sarah Hall, Justin Hawes, Austin Shone, Heide Stufflebeme, John Sandfort and Christian Scherff on their graduation from middle school. We wish you all the best.

HONORING THE RIVERDALE Y'S TEEN THEATER PROGRAM

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the Riverdale Y's Teen Theater program was established in

1990 to provide education, entertainment and enrichment to teens across my district in the Bronx. The program gives kids age 13–18 a chance to study musical theater, to learn through music and to perform for their community. This year, they celebrate their 20th season of performances.

The Teen Theater program has long produced entertainment for residents of the Bronx, who come to see high-level productions worthy of praise in any context, but especially so considering that the performers are our community's young people. This talented troupe of performers recently broke their own attendance record during productions of *Rent* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and they plan more productions in the coming months.

Children who take part in the program learn music, dance, dramatic and literary skills and get the chance to perform for their friends, family and community. They are enriched through the arts, they learn important skills through the arduous rehearsal process, they build self-esteem and they make lifelong friends. The program has received numerous National Youth Theater Awards in recognition of their talented performers, including most recently for *Rent*, which won awards for Best Ensemble Performance, Best Lead Actor in a Musical and Best Lead Actress in a Musical.

On behalf of the many alumni of the program, the residents of the Bronx and the entire Seventeenth District, I want to recognize and honor the Riverdale Y's Teen Theater and their director, Laurie Walton, to thank them for their contributions to our community and to wish them the best of luck in the future.

APPLAUDING THE UPPER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Upper Merion School District of Pennsylvania for winning an Environmental Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Upper Merion was recognized for being a 2010 ENERGY STAR leader and for reducing its energy consumption by more than 30 percent, an achievement reached by only about a dozen of the Nation's 15,000 school districts. All six of Upper Merion's schools have earned the ENERGY STAR rating and several buildings have energy reductions near 50 percent. The district has also embarked on an aggressive recycling program that has resulted in about 50 percent of its solid waste being recycled instead of going to the landfill. I am proud to represent the citizens of Upper Merion in Congress, and their example of stewardship—of a community taking local initiative to reduce their environmental impact—is a model of bottom-up sustainability that municipalities across America should strive to emulate.

HONORING CHARLES RUTLEDGE III

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Rutledge, III, a Mathematics Content Specialist with the Kentucky Department of Education in Northeast Kentucky.

Mr. Rutledge was recently selected by President Barack Obama to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

This award is recognition of Mr. Rutledge's achievement and dedication during more than a decade in the education field. Before joining the Kentucky Department of Education, he was a teacher for 10 years at Prichard Elementary School in Grayson, Kentucky where he taught mathematics, second grade and third grade.

Mr. Rutledge was recognized by the President for his hands-on teaching style that brings math to life for his students and helps them to recognize numbers as representations of values, and not merely symbols.

Today, as we celebrate the accomplishments of this exceptional Kentuckian, it is my hope that others are inspired by his hard work and perseverance.

I urge the House to join me in commending Charles Rutledge for his time and devotion in teaching and helping the youth of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ASIAN
PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH AND THE HEP B FREE
CAMPAIGN**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and a particular effort to benefit the Asian Pacific American (APA) community, the Hep B Free Campaign. This is a month to acknowledge and celebrate the APA community's vital economic, cultural, academic, and political contributions to our diverse and dynamic country. I'm proud to join more than 150,000 of my APA constituents in California's 14th Congressional District, whose work enriches our lives every day.

As we acknowledge the extraordinary impact of the APA community, this is also a time to address a more sobering impact on the APA community, the grave health threat of Hepatitis B. Hepatitis B is the greatest cause of liver cancer in the world, resulting in up to 80 percent of all liver cancer, three hundred and fifty to four hundred million people in the world are chronically infected with Hepatitis B, which takes a life every 30 seconds. Most of them are Asian. One in ten foreign-born Asian Americans are chronically infected with Hepatitis B, 100 times the infection rate of the general population. Without treatment, 1 in 4 will die from liver cancer or liver failure, often in their prime adult years. In California alone, liver cancer is among the leading causes of

cancer deaths among Laotians, Cambodians, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, and Filipinos. Nearly 10 percent of the Asian population in my District is chronically infected, and nearly half have not been vaccinated to protect them from infection.

Given the gravity of this health challenge, I'm proud to recognize the outstanding work of the Hep B Free Campaign which promotes public and provider awareness, including programs for screening, vaccination, and linkage to follow-up treatment.

Hep B Free was originally started by Asian Week Foundation, a community-based non-profit that celebrates the diversity of Asian Pacific America through identity assemblage, with special expertise in bringing together the multiplicity of groups and personality that make up our community; Stanford University's Asian Liver Center, the only non-profit organization in the country addressing this pressing public health disparity; and the San Francisco Department of Public Health because they recognized the egregious health disparity experienced by APA in terms of Hepatitis B. I'm proud this campaign began in San Francisco, continued in San Mateo County and has now launched its campaign in Santa Clara County with the additional support of Asian Americans for Community Involvement and the Santa Clara County Public Health Department. I look forward to supporting Hep B Free as they expand their efforts to the rest of the country. As Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, Majority Whip of the California Assembly and Honorary Chairperson of the Hep B Free Campaign, said, "We can set a model for the nation and be an inspiration to efforts around the globe in eradicating Hep B."

We celebrate APA Heritage Month just a month after the death of Dr. Baruch Blumberg, a brilliant and compassionate scientist whose discovery of the Hepatitis B virus and creation of the vaccine won him a Nobel Prize and the gratitude of all whose lives are affected by the disease. The Hep B vaccine is known as the first anti-cancer vaccine because it is so effective at preventing Hep B infection and the liver cancer that could develop.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and the Hep B Free Campaign's extraordinary efforts to ensure that the millions of Asian Pacific Americans who strengthen our Nation can live long and healthy lives.

HONORING JOHN MURPHY**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Murphy, President and CEO of the Maine Credit Union League, on his induction into the Credit Union House Hall of Leaders.

For nearly two decades, John has served as President and CEO of the Maine Credit Union League. He has worked diligently on the behalf of credit unions for even longer. I have had multiple opportunities to work with John on the issues that impact his members and, as a result, the people and the economy of Maine, and I have always found him to be a dedicated and thoughtful advocate.

The Credit Union National Association inducted John into the Credit Union House Hall of Leaders because he has shown a unique level of commitment to ensuring that these vital community institutions are able to continue serving the individuals and small businesses that make up their customer base. His name will be on permanent display to the thousands of individuals that visit the Credit Union House each year. John is the first inductee from the State of Maine, and I cannot think of a more appropriate individual.

It has been an honor to work with John in the past, and I have no doubt that this recognition in the Hall of Leaders will inspire him to continue his advocacy on behalf of credit unions and the people they serve. I know that the sixty-four credit unions in Maine, as well as their 613,000 members, greatly appreciate John as a resource and as their representative fighting for the issues that matter to them.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring John Murphy and congratulating him on his induction into the Credit Union House Hall of Leaders.

IN SUPPORT OF MEDICARE**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for Medicare and to once again state my strong opposition to the Republican budget plan introduced by Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. This plan would end Medicare as we know it.

Medicare is a program that Americans pay into their entire working lives and expect to benefit from when they retire. Unfortunately, House Republicans continue to support a proposal that would strip away the guaranteed benefits under Medicare. Their plan calls for Medicare to be replaced from a program of guaranteed benefits to one in which seniors would be given a voucher to purchase insurance from an insurance company.

As if this were not bad enough, the vouchers this plan proposes to give Medicare enrollees would in no way keep up with the rising costs of health care. Therefore, enrollees would be saddled with more and more out-of-pocket expenses over time.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office Congress's official actuary projected that these vouchers could actually double out-of-pocket costs for the average beneficiary in the short-term and triple them in the long-term. This is something that I am adamantly opposed to and will fight against it taking place.

Now, to be clear, these changes would not affect current enrollees but it would affect the next generation of retirees including many of our children and grandchildren. But the Republican plan would immediately strip away all the benefits seniors stand to gain and perhaps already are enjoying from the health care law enacted last year.

The health care law is already closing the Medicare Part D coverage gap—known as the "Donut Hole"—providing for free preventive care to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and ensuring that America's seniors have access to the care they need.

The health care law also provides free preventive care for Medicare enrollees care that