

This sense of Congress is an attempt to set the record straight and counter the perception of growing anti-Muslim rhetoric. Congress has a solemn duty to ensure that its actions do not fuel misconceptions about, and prejudices toward, any faith community, including the American Muslim community and Islam. Scores of religious, civil rights, law enforcement, and national security leaders and organizations representing diverse Americans and areas of expertise are concerned about messages which appear to target the American Muslim community, sending counterproductive messages both domestically and internationally. It is essential that the federal government send the message that we all must work together to guarantee the security of our country and that no community should be singled out for suspicion.

CONGRATULATING ALDERMAN
EUGENE SCHULTER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Eugene Schuler, Alderman of Chicago's 47th Ward. Alderman Schuler retired this year, and his dedication to his ward and the City of Chicago will be missed.

As Alderman for thirty-six years, Gene's accomplishments and contributions to Chicago were numerous and helped make Chicago the world class city it is today. He was a great policymaker, but he also understood the importance of focusing on his constituents' needs by keeping the neighborhoods safe and improving community schools. Gene was committed to making the 47th Ward family-friendly, and he did so by creating after-school programs, building parks and playlots, and sponsoring concerts, festivals and farmer's markets. Additionally, he helped foster small businesses and economic growth.

Another one of Alderman Schuler's achievements was affordable housing programs to keep longtime residents in the ward. Along with the Community Partnership for Affordable Neighborhoods (C-PAN) program, Alderman Schuler developed the Northcenter Senior Campus (NSC), which provides hundreds of rental condominiums for constituents above the age of fifty-five. He wanted to make sure every resident was happy with their neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Alderman Eugene Schuler of the 47th Ward of Chicago. Thank you Alderman Schuler for truly providing a community that Chicagoans are proud to call "home." I wish him, his wife Rosemary, and his children Monica and Phillip all the best on their future endeavors.

INTRODUCING HEALTH FREEDOM
LEGISLATION

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce two pieces of legislation restoring the First

Amendment rights of consumers to receive truthful information regarding the benefits of foods and dietary supplements. The first bill, the Health Freedom Restoration Act, codifies the First Amendment by ending the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s efforts to censor truthful health claims. The second bill, the Freedom of Health Speech Act, codifies the First and Fifth Amendment by requiring the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to prove that health claims are false before it takes action to stop manufacturers and marketers from making the claims.

The American people have made it clear they do not want the federal government to interfere with their access to dietary supplements, yet the FDA and the FTC continue to engage in heavy-handed attempts to restrict such access. The FDA continues to frustrate consumers' efforts to learn how they can improve their health even after Congress, responding to a record number of constituents' comments, passed the Dietary Supplement and Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA). FDA bureaucrats are so determined to frustrate consumers' access to truthful information that they are even evading their duty to comply with four federal court decisions vindicating consumers' First Amendment rights to discover the health benefits of foods and dietary supplements.

FDA bureaucrats have even refused to abide by the DSHEA section allowing the public to have access to scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in treating diseases by claiming that every article concerning this topic is evidence of intent to sell an unapproved and unlawful drug.

Because of the FDA's censorship of truthful health claims, millions of Americans may suffer with diseases and other health care problems they may have avoided by using dietary supplements. For example, the FDA prohibited consumers from learning how folic acid reduces the risk of neural tube defects for four years after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended every woman of childbearing age take folic acid supplements to reduce neural tube defects. This FDA action contributed to an estimated 10,000 cases of preventable neural tube defects.

The FDA also continues to prohibit consumers from learning about the scientific evidence that glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate are effective in the treatment of osteoarthritis; that omega-3 fatty acids may reduce the risk of sudden death heart attack; that calcium may reduce the risk of bone fractures; and that vitamin D may reduce the risk of osteoporosis, hypertension, and cancer.

The Health Freedom Restoration Act will force the FDA to at last comply with the commands of Congress, the First Amendment, numerous federal courts, and the American people by codifying the First Amendment prohibition on prior restraint. Specifically, the Health Freedom Restoration Act stops the FDA from censoring truthful claims about the curative, mitigative, or preventative effects of dietary supplements. The Health Freedom Restoration Act also stops the FDA from prohibiting the distribution of scientific articles and publications regarding the role of nutrients in protecting against disease. The FDA has proven that it cannot be trusted to protect consumers' rights to make informed choices. It is time for Congress to stop the FDA from censoring truthful health information.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act addresses the FTC's violations of the First Amendment. Under traditional constitutional standards, the federal government bears the burden of proving an advertising statement false before censoring that statement. However, the FTC shifted the burden of proof to industry. The FTC presumes health advertising is false and compels private parties to prove the ads (and everything the regulators say the ads imply) to be true to a near conclusive degree. This violation of the First and Fifth Amendments is harming consumers by blocking innovation in the health foods and dietary supplement marketplace.

The Freedom of Health Speech Act requires the government actually prove that speech is false before the FTC acts against the speaker. This is how it should be in a free society where information flows freely in order to foster the continuous improvement that benefits us all. The bill also requires that the FTC warn parties that their advertising is false and give them a chance to correct their mistakes before the FTC censors the claim and imposes other punishments.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about putting people in charge of their health care, then shouldn't we stop federal bureaucrats from preventing Americans from learning about simple ways to improve their health. I therefore call on my colleagues to stand up for good health and the Constitution by cosponsoring the Health Freedom Restoration Act and the Freedom of Health Speech Act.

IN SUPPORT OF THE TROOPS TO
TEACHERS AMENDMENT TO THE
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Courtney, Petri, Matsui Amendment, to expand and improve our Nation's existing Troops to Teachers program.

I am pleased to introduce this amendment with my colleagues, with whom I also sponsored the Post 9/11 Troops to Teachers Enhancement Act of 2011. Our amendment would make the program more accessible to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan by reducing the military service requirement from 6 years to 4 years.

It would also expand the number of school districts eligible to participate, and create an advisory board to increase awareness about, and participation in the program.

Finally, this amendment transfers the program from the Department of Education to the Department of Defense.

Currently, the program is operated by the Department of Defense, but funded through the Department of Education. By housing the administration and funding of Troops to Teachers in the same Department, we will be able to streamline this program for the benefit of all of its participants and the students it serves.

With their proven service, diverse backgrounds, and leadership traits our Nation's veterans can serve their country again, by serving as teachers in our country's most vulnerable schools. With more veterans returning

home from overseas we need to support programs such as Troops for Teachers that successfully transition them from the military back into civilian life.

I have seen firsthand the success of this program by visiting teachers in my district who returned from service and used the program's stipend to help pay for teaching certification classes and exams. This amendment is a win-win for our veterans and our students.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bipartisan amendment.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON ITS 93RD ANNI- VERSARY OF "REPUBLIC DAY"

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, Speaker, as the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan as it celebrates its 93rd Republic Day on May 28, 2011. Later this year, Azerbaijan will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of its freedom from the Soviet Union and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States. These events both represent important milestones in Azerbaijan's history.

Azerbaijan has progressed over twenty years to become a key ally to the United States in a strategically important region. Azerbaijan is located between Russia and Iran in the geopolitically dynamic region between Europe and Asia. It is a secular democracy with a predominantly Muslim population that has been home to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities for over a millennium.

Azerbaijan continues to offer multi-faceted support for U.S. and NATO operations in Afghanistan, in part by providing medical services for injured Afghans and training for Afghan Security Forces. As highlighted by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Azerbaijan plays a key role in supporting the Northern Distribution Network, which provides passage for Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan. Finally, Azerbaijan provides vital support to U.S. nonproliferation efforts.

In addition to supporting U.S. security interests in the region, Azerbaijan serves a paramount role in supplying the United States and Europe with oil and gas. It is the only secular Muslim country that maintains close ties with Israel, supplying roughly a quarter of Israel's oil.

Again, as the co-chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan on the occasion of its 93rd Republic Day. For my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan, I encourage them to consider joining the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, which works to strengthen and grow the valuable partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan.

30 YEARS OF DEDICATED WORK BY THE GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Great Swamp Watershed Association (GSWA) located in Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating 30 years of successful natural resource protection in the Great Swamp Wildlife Refuge.

Thousands of years ago, the melting waters of large retreating glaciers formed a massive glacial lake called Glacial Lake Passaic. Over the years, the lake drained to leave wetlands, which form a part of the Great Swamp in New Jersey. This federally-protected land is home to a large variety of plants, animals, and humans, as well as several federally-designated threatened species.

After the creation of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in 1964, a small group of citizens became concerned with protecting and improving water resources in the ten municipalities that bordered the Great Swamp. In 1981, this grass-roots group created the GSWA in order to protect the land and water in these towns. Through its efforts, the organization has acquired fifty-three acres of property in the area surrounding the Refuge, while working to preserve local streams and maintain local water quality.

The GSWA has grown from its roots to include 2,200 members in over 40 New Jersey municipalities. Today, the organization continues to protect environmentally sensitive land through land acquisition and promoting the strengthening of environmental regulations in New Jersey. With the support of its staff, trustees, and many valuable volunteers, the Association helped develop the first-ever water quality standards for the Great Swamp Watershed, which aid scientists, policy makers and local officials in protecting water resources from further degradation and in restoring those resources that have been harmed. Although the GSWA's work is centered primarily within the towns directly served by the Great Swamp Watershed, the results of its persistence extend to the more than one million people in Northern New Jersey who obtain their drinking water from the Passaic River.

In addition, the GSWA fosters environmental awareness and provides environmental education for children and adults throughout the state. Over 1,500 students have benefitted from its three-dimensional watershed model that illustrates how individual and group actions affect water quality in the local area. The organization invites teachers to participate in programs that show them how to use their own school grounds as areas for environmental education. The GSWA also offers several family programs within the watershed that introduce area residents to the natural history in their own backyards. In providing these programs, the GSWA teaches communities of the ecological value of the Great Swamp watershed, as well as the importance of restoring the property and protecting it from land development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Great Swamp Watershed Association for its 30 years of

dedicated work on behalf of the great State of New Jersey.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA- TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1540) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Chair, today, I rise on behalf of all of West Virginia's National Guard and proudly support the Miller/Rahall amendment based on my legislation, the Guardians of Freedom Act of 2011—a bill to elevate the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to a position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The body politic of the National Guard—nearly a half-million strong supports this amendment, as does the National Guard Coalition, composed of Adjutants General Association, the National Guard Association, and Enlisted Association of the National Guard.

The National Guard is one of our Nation's longest-standing institutions, empowered by Congress and providing to the States a highly trained and well-equipped force to protect life and property. Over the course of its nearly four-hundred year history, the National Guard has remained a dual State-Federal force, providing security on the home front and fighting threats to our Nation and our freedoms all over the globe.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 brought about historic empowerment changes for the National Guard, elevating the Chief of the National Guard to the rank of four-star general and providing the Chief a stronger voice inside the Pentagon. This year, the 2012 Defense Authorization bill also adds a vice-chief to assist with the increasing responsibilities of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. But we must do more in giving the Chief a seat at the negotiating table.

As a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau would have responsibility and authority to advocate and coordinate the Guard's war fighting support and force provider mission with its homeland security and support missions to ensure the Guard has the resources to perform its multiple missions and fulfill its Constitutional role to our States.

Madam Chair, from the battlefield to the home fields, our National Guard—America's patriots—exemplifies sacrifice and commitment to duty.

West Virginians volunteer for the National Guard at nearly double the national rate. The West Virginia National Guard has 38 units and activities stationed in 22 counties throughout West Virginia, and currently has units deployed in military operations around the world.

The American people owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our nearly 500,000 men and women members of the National Guard in