

The National Council of La Raza became a national organization in 1972. NCLR has grown and evolved over the course of its history to become the most authoritative voice on Hispanic issues today. Latinos are strengthened through participation in NCLR and in the political process through its various civic engagement projects. NCLR also works to strengthen emerging community-based organizations in areas where there is a growing Latino population.

Now in its 44th year, NCLR is busy building communities as an industry leader in homeownership counseling, operating programs in 40 sites throughout the country. Its Charter School Development Initiative has helped create more than 40 new schools and strengthen more than 45 others, and its Institute for Hispanic Health develops and implements health education and prevention programs and conducts health advocacy activities in partnership with its network of affiliates.

NCLR's education component is dedicated to increasing educational opportunities, improving achievement, supporting college-readiness, and promoting equity in outcomes for Latinos. The efforts of the education team build the capacity and strengthen the quality of the community-based education sector and inform the broader public education system.

NCLR's economic and workforce advocacy seeks to ensure the Latino community's ability to contribute to and share in the nation's economic opportunities by promoting policies that boost Hispanic employment in good jobs, provide safe and fair workplaces, bridge Latino workers' education and skills gaps, and offer a secure retirement.

With the Raza Development Fund, NCLR's community development lending arm is one of the nation's largest and most successful community development banks. It has approved more than 117 loans totaling \$54.6 million, leveraging more than \$267 million in financing to community-based housing projects, schools, health clinics, and day care centers.

More recently, in efforts to provide NCLR's affiliates with more direct access to elected officials in Washington, DC, earlier this year NCLR held its first annual NCLR National Advocacy Day. The event convened affiliate members from 22 states who were briefed on the most important issues facing Latinos at the national level, including education, economic mobility, health, and immigration, and who met with Members of Congress to educate them about the needs of the community.

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me immense pride to recognize the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) and the role they play in educating and training our community members, developing community leaders and fighting for equal rights and fair representation throughout the United States. I am especially pleased to welcome NCLR's members and the tens of thousands of attendees for its 2012 annual conference to Las Vegas, Nevada. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the great work of NCLR and wish them a most successful 2012 conference.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced the Taxpayer Bill of Rights every Congress since 2008, and today I am proud to introduce the Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act of 2012, legislation that contains important provisions to improve services for and protect the rights of American taxpayers, particularly those with modest incomes. Senator Bingaman of New Mexico, a dedicated advocate for taxpayer rights, is introducing companion legislation in the Senate. Many of these provisions are based on proposals from the National Taxpayer Advocate, Nina Olson, who has long been a champion of improving taxpayer services and tax administration at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

As former Nixon Treasury Secretary William Simon said, "The nation should have a tax system that looks like someone designed it on purpose." As we look for ways to restructure the tax code to make it fairer and more transparent for all taxpayers, it is critical that ideas to help improve IRS service and accessibility are included in this conversation. Every year, millions of taxpayers file their returns with the IRS and inevitably issues of tax administration come to the forefront. These issues range from taxpayers not knowing their legal rights when interacting with the IRS, to taxpayers enlisting unscrupulous or poorly-trained preparers to help them complete one of their most important financial transactions of the year. This legislation aims to help prevent taxpayers from finding themselves in these avoidable situations, and to build on and improve taxpayer services provided through the IRS.

The centerpiece of this Act is the requirement that Treasury publish a Taxpayer Bill of Rights. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights will be a simple and straightforward statement that enumerates all taxpayers' rights and obligations, as well as reference their location in the tax code. As the National Taxpayer Advocate explained in her 2011 Report to Congress: "In a time when the IRS will feel pressure to bring in additional tax revenue, it is crucial to provide taxpayers with strong protection for their rights." Currently, these rights and obligations are scattered throughout the tax code and Internal Revenue Manual, making them neither accessible nor written in plain language that most taxpayers can understand.

This Act also helps improve the quality and accessibility of tax preparation services and advice available to taxpayers in several different ways. First, it builds on the IRS's initiative to regulate unenrolled tax preparers through examination and continuing education requirements, for which I have been a long time advocate. Implementation of the IRS tax return preparer framework is well underway, and this legislation will simply codify the existing authority of the IRS to regulate tax return preparers. The Act also helps ensure moderate income taxpayers have access to qualified tax assistance by supporting a grant program for free income tax assistance services, and by allowing IRS referrals to Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics, which provide representation to modest income taxpayers in their disputes

with the IRS. The Act also provides for oversight over facilitators of high cost tax refund anticipation loans and other tax refund delivery products, and significantly increases penalties on preparers of fraudulent tax returns.

Finally, this bill includes several provisions that would improve IRS taxpayer services. One important provision provides greater protections for taxpayers when they are faced with a Notice of a Federal Tax Lien filing (NFTL). Filing of an NFTL can result in significant, long-term hardship to a taxpayer, and may adversely affect the taxpayer's credit, thus impairing his or her ability to conduct financial transactions or secure employment. The Taxpayer Bill of Rights Act requires the IRS to make individualized determinations before the filing of an NFTL, and also requires consideration of hardship factors and a taxpayer's history of compliance before these determinations are made.

Many of the problems identified in this bill have gone unaddressed for too long, causing confusion and undue hardship for taxpayers across the country. I encourage all of my colleagues to support these common sense provisions to promote taxpayer rights and services for all Americans.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,778,950,543,472.67. We've added \$5,152,073,494,559.59 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

On this day in 1919, the Treaty of Versailles was signed in Paris, ending World War I. Without a balanced budget, the United States will no longer be able to bring peace to warring nations.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED WAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th Anniversary of United Way.

Founded in 1887, United Way has become a celebrated organization committed to improving communities throughout the United States and around the world. Through locally targeted initiatives, United Way strives to advance the common good, helping communities reach their full potential in the spirit of volunteerism and service. United Way mobilizes thousands of individuals and organizations worldwide to improve education, help people achieve financial stability and promote healthy lifestyles in their communities, building the foundation for a stronger, healthier society.

Today, United Way includes almost 1,800 community-based organizations in 41 countries and territories. In Southern California, United Way of Greater Los Angeles is dedicated to providing long term solutions for the root causes of poverty. Increasing the high school graduation rate, decreasing homelessness and implementing job training and asset development programs are part of a tireless effort to better our community and help people in need.

To all of the passionate volunteers, employees and partners of United Way, I join my colleagues in recognizing and honoring your legacy of inspirational service.

COMMENDING THE FORMATION OF
THE CONGRESSIONAL ANTI-BULLYING CAUCUS

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my appreciation for the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus, a new caucus formed to heighten congressional awareness and advocate for policies to combat bullying of all kinds, from the playground to the elderly care facility. Every American is entitled to live, work, and recreate in a safe environment, free of fear from threats to his or her physical safety and mental and emotional security.

In recent years we have witnessed an explosion in the number of reported and unreported cases of bullying. It is thirteen million children will be bullying victims this year alone. It is estimated also that 15 percent of American school children skip school to avoid being bullied by schoolmates. This is tragic. Children who fear for their safety cannot learn. If they do not learn, they will not fulfill their potential. If they do not fulfill their position, the nation will be deprived of the talent it needs to compete and win in the global economy of the 21st century. If our children fall behind because they lack a safe learning environment, America falls behind. The Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus aims to do something about.

Further, bullying jeopardizes not only the education of our children, but also their very well-being. The term "bullycide" has been coined to define the act of committing suicide as a result of bullying. This continues to be one of the leading causes of death for children under the age of 14. In fact, the rate of suicide among adolescents has grown more than 50 percent over the last 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately bullying does not end when our children move on from the playground. It exists on college campuses, in the workplace, online, and even in elderly care facilities. Nearly half of Americans have experienced some sort of violence either in their workplace, at home, or in their community. Hazing on college campuses has been a problem for decades. Five percent of all college students admit to being hazed, with 40 percent admitting that a coach or advisor was aware of the hazing and did not intervene. This lack of action is unacceptable. Our college students must have the ability to focus on their work and prepare for their futures, without fear of physical or verbal hazing.

Bullying in the workplace appears in various forms, from narcissistic bullying, to physical, to

verbal. This abuse in the workplace creates a hostile work environment, making the organization vulnerable to lawsuits, decreasing morale, and reducing productivity. Thus, bullying is not only negatively impacting our future in the global market, but also our ability to compete today. In short, bullying has national implications and thus requires national attention and action.

I am proud to be a charter member of the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus. I thank Representative HONDA, the Chair of the Anti-Bullying Caucus, for his leadership and look forward to working with him and my fellow members of the caucus to reduce, if not end altogether, the scourge of bullying in our schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, and online.

STRENGTHENING AND FOCUSING
ENFORCEMENT TO DETER ORGA-
NIZED STEALING AND ENHANCE
SAFETY ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speakers, I rise in support of H.R. 4223, the Safe Doses Act. I am proud to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in supporting this important legislation.

H.R. 4223 addresses a difficult issue in the pharmaceutical supply chain: the theft of medical products. While this body last week passed important legislation to protect consumers from counterfeit drugs, there remains a real risk from stolen medical goods.

This is not a not a hypothetical exercise, it is a real problem. Criminal organizations who steal medical products are not concerned with storing these materials properly, or ensuring that they are only sold with a doctor's prescription.

Let me give one brief, but telling example: In 2009, 128,000 vials of insulin were stolen in North Carolina. Beyond the \$11 million monetary cost of this theft, there was a human cost as well.

These vials were reintroduced into the supply chain after being improperly stored. The vials found their way to pharmacies in 17 different states, and at least two individuals suffered potentially fatal blood sugar levels before the FDA was able to alert the public to this danger.

H.R. 4223 is a simple and sensible way to give law enforcement and prosecutors a stronger set of tools to go after criminal organizations that are brazenly stealing vital medication and devices. I further note that, beyond the bipartisan support this measure has received, the Safe Doses Act passed both the House Judiciary and Senate Judiciary Committees unanimously.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation, clean up the pharmaceutical supply chain, and protect their constituents.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS.
MARGARET S. RIKER

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Margaret Riker of Fair Haven, New Jersey. Mrs. Riker is the 2012 Count Basie Theatre's Summer Soiree honoree. Mrs. Riker is a loving mother, professional business woman and active member of the community. Her work and the recognition she is receiving from the Count Basie Theater are truly worthy of this body's recognition.

Margaret Riker hails from Bergen County, New Jersey and later moved to Fair Haven, New Jersey in 1989. Mrs. Riker is a proud member of the University of Vermont's class of 1981 where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and English. Mrs. Riker was previously employed in marketing and sales promotion. Mrs. Riker was married to the late William Riker, and is the proud mother of three children, Katie, Jack and Teddy. The Riker family moved to Bermuda in 1993 to support Mr. Riker's professional endeavors, returning to the United States in 2003. The Riker family currently resides in Rumson, New Jersey.

Margaret Riker is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in our local community. She currently serves as President of The Rumson Community Appeal and is a Foundation Board Member of Riverview Hospital. Mrs. Riker also serves as a Community Services Board Member to the Visiting Nurses Association of Central New Jersey, Gala Committee Member to Prevention First and supports The Rumson Country Day School and The Lawrenceville School. She passionately represents the mission of these various organizations as a mentor, advocate and leader. Maggie is also an active member of area clubs including the Sea Bright Tennis and Cricket Club and the Coral Beach Club. Mrs. Riker is committed to the success of the Count Basie Theatre as a result of her passion for the performing arts. Her philanthropic efforts dedicated to maintaining and improving the Count Basie Theatre and the arts will continue enhance future performances.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Margaret Riker for serving as honoree at the Count Basie Theatre's Summer Soiree. Mrs. Riker's contributions to her family and community continued to resonate with the constituents throughout Monmouth County, New Jersey.

DEPUTY SHERIFF SHERVIN
LALEZARY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am joined by my colleague Congressman HENRY WAXMAN to pay tribute to Deputy Sheriff Sherwin Lalezary for his outstanding courage and bravery in capturing an infamous arsonist that wreaked havoc in the city of Los Angeles. Sherwin is a real estate attorney