

What the American people also deserve to know is why the Majority is putting partisan politics above the public's right to a fair and balanced investigation. The Oversight and Government Reform Committee Republicans have not granted a single Democratic witness request in 16 months. If this investigation was on the up and up, it seems that the Democrats should be allowed the opportunity to bring forward at least one witness. In fact, the Republicans refused ten requests by Democrats to hold a hearing with the former Acting Director of the ATF Kenneth Melson. He was in charge of the agency responsible for the Fast and Furious operation. The Majority also rejected requests to have William Hoover, the former Acting Deputy Director of the ATF during Operation Fast and Furious, testify before the committee. They also refused to allow former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey to testify about gun-walking programs initiated under the previous administration. I hope that by opposing these resolutions we can have a real congressional investigation into the ATF's "gun-walking" operations and pass legislation to ensure that similar operations never happen again. The Dingell Resolution I voted for requires the Oversight and Government Reform Committee to hold bipartisan public hearings with the Kenneth Melson, William Hoover, Michael Mukasey, and others.

The House of Representatives has never voted to hold a sitting Attorney General in contempt. I don't think Republicans and Chairman Issa have provided us a real reason to do so today. Instead, they have prevented a legitimate investigation from taking place and continue to move the goalpost again and again to demand documents unrelated to the Fast and Furious Operations. Their conduct has revealed they are far more interested in getting Attorney General Holder than getting the facts. This has been a total abuse of power and process. I believe that we should be voting on the President's jobs bill today instead of this misguided and partisan resolution.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this resolution.

CAL FORMOLO

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. Speaker, let it be known that it is an honor and pleasure to pay tribute to Lieutenant Cal Formolo for his distinguished military career. Lieutenant Formolo, a native of Iron Mountain, Michigan, joined the Navy in November 1987, and graduated from basic training from the Electrician's Mate "A" School and Naval Nuclear Power School. After graduation, he went on to the Nuclear Power Training Unit (S1W) where he completed prototype training. He remained in Idaho Falls for a staff instructor tour at the A1W prototype.

In August 1991, Lieutenant Formolo reported to his first ship, the Ohio Class submarine USS *Florida* in Bangor, Washington, where he was assigned to the Electrical Division. During his tour, the USS *Florida* completed nine strategic deterrent patrols, and Lieutenant Formolo was awarded two Battle Efficiency "E" awards. He was also selected as the USS *Florida* Sailor of the Year in 1996.

Leaving the USS *Florida*, Lieutenant Formolo served at the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, New York. As a First Class Petty Officer, he quickly qualified as the engineering officer of the watch, and advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. In December 2000, Lieutenant Formolo reported to the Los Angeles Class submarine USS *Honolulu* in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where he completed one Western Pacific Deployment and two Eastern Pacific Deployments. During his tour, the USS *Honolulu* was awarded the Battle Efficiency "E" Award. Lieutenant Formolo next reported to the USS *John C. Stennis* in San Diego, California. As the ship's reactor controls technical assistant, he was responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of *John C. Stennis*'s two 500 mega-watt reactors. He stood watch as Officer of the Deck during a six-month Western Pacific Deployment. In 2004, Lieutenant Formolo reported aboard the Naval Submarine Support Center Performance Monitoring Team in Norfolk, Virginia, as Officer in Charge. He was responsible for monitoring submarine systems and creating work requests for system repairs, and was promoted to Lieutenant during this tour.

In January 2007, Lieutenant Formolo reported to Commander Submarine Squadron Six to perform the duties of the Material Officer and Depot Availability Coordinator. There he was responsible for the planning and execution of submarine dry-docking repair periods. After serving in the U.S. Navy for over 24 years, Lieutenant Formolo retired during this tour on April 1, 2012. Lieutenant Formolo was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Breast Insignia and Enlisted Submarine Warfare Breast Insignia. Lieutenant Formolo is currently employed at WE Energies as an Electric Distribution Controller. He is married to the former Cheryl Simonson of Benicia, California. They reside in Kingsford, Michigan, with their son Jacob. On behalf of the citizens of Michigan's First District, it is my privilege to recognize Cal Formolo for his service, sacrifice, and continued patriotism.

MAINE WABANAKI-STATE CHILD WELFARE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION MANDATE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mrs. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude and best wishes to a coalition doing very important work in my state to heal injuries of the past and find a better path into the future.

Today, Wabanaki Chiefs, officials, and citizens—along with members of the Maine Legislature, Truth and Reconciliation Convening Group, Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission, and Maine's governor—are gathering to sign the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Mandate.

This historic signing will begin work to seek truth and healing in how the state child welfare system has treated the families of these indigenous Maine tribes—including the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahlanukuk, Passamaquoddy Tribe

at Sipayik, Penobscot Indian Nation, and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs. In recent decades, these groups have seen their children taken from them to be placed with non-native families through adoption and foster care.

Through this process, the commission will listen to stories of families affected by these practices and learn how the loss has impacted cultures that rely on their children for continued existence. The goal is not to injure, blame or shame anyone, but to bring these truths to the open air so they can heal, teach, and prevent future harm.

I'm so proud to live in a state that is willing to have these difficult, but crucially important, conversations with a spirit of honesty and reconciliation. I wish my best to this group and fervently hope it reaches a successful conclusion.

HONORING BISHOP DR. STEWART REESE, JR.

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

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

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

Whereas, Bishop Dr. Stewart Reese, Jr., is celebrating forty three (43) years in pastoral leadership this year as the founder of Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith, Inc., and has provided stellar leadership to his church; and

Whereas, Bishop Reese, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained Bethesda Cathedral 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 and is a beacon of light to those in need; and

Whereas, Bishop Reese 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 nation 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 Bishop Reese, as he celebrates forty three years in pastoral leadership on this the Founder's Day of Bethesda Cathedral of the Apostolic Faith;

Now Therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. do hereby proclaim June 3, 2012 as Bishop Dr. Stewart Reese, Jr. Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 3rd day of June, 2012.

THE WIPA AND PABSS CONTINUATION OF SERVICES ACT OF 2012

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with my colleagues, the "WIPA and PABSS Continuation of Services Act of 2012," which would support Americans with severe disabilities who want to attempt to

work and potentially reduce their need for Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability benefits. It does so by ensuring the continuation of two important community-based programs that assist individuals who wish to transition off of benefits by seeking and maintaining paid employment.

These programs have in the past been extended with overwhelming bipartisan support. Unfortunately, due to lack of action by the majority, the programs are today on the verge of expiring, and disability beneficiaries who want to try to work will be without the assistance they need to move ahead. We have worked extensively to find another solution, but we have reached an impasse.

I have received many letters, calls and emails of support for extending WIPA and PABSS. I'd like to submit three of these for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—the endorsements of the bill by the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Task Force on Social Security, the National Disability Rights Network, and Easter Seals.

Helping individuals with disabilities who want to return to work should not be a partisan issue. I encourage all Members to join me in support of this legislation, and I hope we can move forward promptly, so Americans who are disabled are not denied the support they need to return to work.

More detailed information about WIPA and PABSS, and a description of the bill, follows.

"WORK INCENTIVES PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE" (WIPA)

When Congress passed the Ticket to Work Act in 1999, we recognized that beneficiaries needed help in navigating the work rules for DI and SSI recipients, which can seem like a complex maze. The Social Security Administration (SSA) lacked and still lacks the resources to be able to provide the kind of individualized assistance beneficiaries often need in order to use the work incentives. Moreover, Congress recognized that beneficiaries may be reluctant to discuss with SSA their interest in trying to work despite the obstacles, out of fear that they may lose their benefits even if their attempt to work fails. WIPA was created to fill this vacuum.

WIPA funds community-based programs through which trained benefit counselors help beneficiaries understand how to use the SSA work incentives. These counselors help people with disabilities in a number of ways:

They provide basic information on how disability beneficiaries can test out their ability to obtain and sustain employment, using work incentive provisions in DI, SSI and other programs to transition off of benefits.

They provide intensive, individualized guidance on the operation of these complex benefit rules and help beneficiaries report their earnings to SSA.

Their guidance helps reduce the likelihood of overpayments and increase beneficiaries' confidence that their attempt to work will not risk a catastrophic loss of basic economic security.

Recognizing the reality that SSA cannot always adjust benefit payments quickly in light of an individual's earnings, WIPA staff also counsel clients to set aside any overpaid benefits so that they are prepared to repay the overpayment once SSA processes their case.

Since their inception in 2000, WIPA programs have served nearly half a million SSA beneficiaries. SSA currently funds 140 WIPA

grantees, using \$23 million included in its overall annual operating budget. However, funding for more than half of the WIPA programs will expire on June 30, 2012, unless Congress or SSA is able to extend them.

"PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR BENEFICIARIES OF SOCIAL SECURITY" (PABSS)

During consideration of the Ticket to Work Act, Congress also recognized that Americans with disabilities who can work may need legal advocacy in order to be able to obtain a job or maintain employment, so that they eventually won't need disability benefits. The PABSS program was established to assist such Americans.

PABSS organizations provide a wide range of services in support of work by persons with disabilities:

An individual with an intellectual disability was told that the job-coach assistance that enabled her to work would be terminated. Her local PABSS program intervened and the client was able to maintain her employment.

A blind individual had accommodations in place at work, but a software change at his company made it impossible to use them to perform his job. The PABSS office helped the employer upgrade the accommodations and worked with the Commission for the Blind to split the cost.

An individual with muscular dystrophy who lived in a rural area needed car repairs so he could get to his job. PABSS helped him resolve the issue with his warranty company so that his car could be repaired and he could keep his job.

A disabled individual was able to drive a taxi, but needed prompt payment of his past-due DI benefits in order to purchase a vehicle. PABSS helped the client obtain his past-due benefits, and he was able to purchase the cab.

PABSS operates through the protection and advocacy agencies in each state and territory. Since its inception, PABSS has assisted more than 80,000 individuals. The \$7 million annual cost is included in SSA's annual operating budget. Funding for PABSS expires September 30, 2012.

STATUS OF WIPA AND PABSS

Both programs are permanently authorized, and SSA uses its annual appropriation for the agency's overall operating expenses to fund the grantees. To reinforce and clarify the underlying law, Congress has several times adopted legislation, with overwhelming bipartisan support, to extend SSA's specific authorization to use already-appropriated operating budget funds. However, in the 112th Congress, the majority has not been able to pass an extension and has not introduced any legislation on this topic.

We have been working to find an administrative solution, since the programs are permanently authorized in statute, but the issues are complicated. The simplest way to address the problem is to pass legislation.

THE WIPA AND PABSS CONTINUATION OF SERVICES ACT OF 2012

The legislation would clarify the existing law by removing any ambiguity about SSA's authority to continue WIPA and PABSS grants. The bill removes a conflicting provision from the statute that authorized a particular amount and time frame for funding of the WIPA and PABSS programs. It leaves in place the underlying provisions that permanently establish the two programs, including the standing au-

thorization for SSA to use its annual operating budget to fund them.

I urge all Members to support this legislation. I hope that Congress will act promptly so that we can keep these programs in operation and continue to serve Americans with disabilities.

NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK,

June 27, 2012.

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,

Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: On behalf of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), and the 57 Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agencies we represent in every state and territory, I write to express our strong support for the "WIPA and PABSS Continuation of Services Act of 2012" that you are introducing.

NDRN is the national membership association for the fifty-seven P&A agencies that run the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program in every state, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. territories. Collectively, the P&A Network is the largest provider of legally-based advocacy services for persons with disabilities in the United States. NDRN strives to promote a society where people with disabilities have equality of opportunity and are able to participate fully in community life (including employment) by exercising informed choice and self-determination.

Every year, the PABSS program and the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program help thousands of people with disabilities enter or stay in the workforce, and to progress towards independence and economic self-sufficiency. Ensuring that these programs continue is critical to addressing the high unemployment and low labor participation rates for people with disabilities in this country, while simultaneously helping beneficiaries of Social Security disability benefits attain economic self-sufficiency.

The PABSS program was created in 1999 as part of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Act to protect the rights of beneficiaries as they attempt to go to work. PABSS provides a wide range of services to Social Security beneficiaries. This includes information and advice about obtaining vocational rehabilitation and employment services, information and referral services on work incentives, and advocacy or other legal services that a beneficiary needs to secure, maintain, or regain gainful employment. Advocates funded by PABSS can investigate and advocate to remedy complaints of employment discrimination and other civil and legal rights violations. These advocates also address deficiencies in entities providing employment supports and services to beneficiaries.

Authorization for both the PABSS and WIPA programs expired on September 30, 2011. Fortunately, the Social Security Administration (SSA) was able to set aside funding to sustain the WIPA program until June 30, 2012, and the PABSS program until September 30, 2012. However, without the passage of a new authorization bill, like your legislation, the Social Security Administration says that the funding for these programs will end, which will cause many Social Security recipients to go without services to help them return to work. Additionally, layoffs and long-term disruptions to the ability of grantees to provide these services will occur with the loss of experienced personnel.

Failure to reauthorize these programs will mean that the following success story, which

repeats around the country every day, will no longer be able to occur:

PABSS staff represented a 57-year-old female and SSDI beneficiary, diagnosed with bilateral blindness and orthopedic disabilities. She had not been employed since losing her eyesight several years ago. She sought to return to work, and applied for services from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). DVR took her application, disregarded her statutory presumptive eligibility, and sent her a letter stating that she was ineligible for DVR services because of "transferable job skills." As a direct result of PABSS advocacy, DVR reopened this woman's case, found her presumptively eligible, conducted an appropriate Comprehensive Assessment of Rehabilitation Needs, and negotiated with her former employer to allow her to return to her previous job. As a result, this woman has returned to the workforce.

Examples, such as the above story, demonstrate that losing the PABSS program will hurt efforts to encourage people with disabilities to return to work, which in turn leads to further depletion of the Social Security Disability trust fund.

Again, thank you for introducing the "WIPA and PABSS Continuation of Services Act of 2012." We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to enact this important legislation into law.

Sincerely,

CURT DECKER,
Executive Director.

CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES,
June 28, 2012.

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Social Security
of the Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: The undersigned Co-Chairs of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Employment and Training and Social Security Task Forces are writing to thank you and express our strong support for the bill you are introducing to ensure the continuation of services under the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program and the Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program. These two critically important programs help beneficiaries of the Social Security disability programs navigate the complex program rules and work incentives and attain economic self-sufficiency. The PABSS program was created in 1999 to protect the rights of beneficiaries as they attempt to go to work. The WIPA program funds Community Work Incentive Coordinators who help beneficiaries understand their options if they choose to return to work. Without congressional action, these programs will run out of funding soon causing many Social Security disability beneficiaries to go without services to help them return to work.

As you know, both WIPA and PABSS are vital to help Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries who wish to return to the workforce. WIPA grants go to local non-profits and other agencies to support outreach, education and benefits planning. WIPA grantees inform beneficiaries on the impact that employment will have on their disability income and medical coverage, and address many of the real fears that individuals have about going to work at the risk of losing health coverage.

PABSS provides a wide range of services to Social Security beneficiaries. This includes information and advice about obtaining vocational rehabilitation and employment services, information and referral services on

work incentives, and advocacy or other legal services that a beneficiary needs to secure, maintain, or regain gainful employment. Advocates funded by PABSS can investigate and advocate to remedy complaints of employment discrimination and other civil and legal rights violations, and to address deficiencies in entities providing employment supports and services to beneficiaries.

Thank you for your leadership in continuing the WIPA and PABSS programs. We thoroughly support the continuation of these vital programs for people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Employment & Training Task Force Co-Chairs:

ALICIA EPSTEIN,
NISH.

SUSAN GOODMAN,
National Down Syndrome Congress.

CHARLES HARLES,
Inter-National Association of Business
Industry and Rehabilitation (I-NABIR).

SUSAN PROKOP,
Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Social Security Task Force Co-Chairs:

JEANNE MORIN,
National Association of Disability Representatives.

TJ SUTCLIFFE,
The Arc of United States

ETHEL ZELENSEKE,
National Association of Social Security
Claimants' Representatives.

EASTER SEALS,
Washington, DC, June 27, 2012.

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,
Ranking Member, Social Security Subcommittee,
Committee on Ways and Means, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: I am writing in support of your legislative efforts to continue the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) and Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) programs at the Social Security Administration (SSA).

WIPA and PABSS provide Social Security beneficiaries with disabilities with access to reliable work incentive and benefits information that can help lead to increased employment and decreased disability on public benefits. Four Easter Seals affiliates provide work and benefits counseling through WIPA to veterans, transition-to-work aged youth, and other Social Security beneficiaries who are interested in entering or returning to the workforce. Through the WIPA program, Easter Seals affiliates have helped thousands of individuals across the country, including many who are now working, paying taxes and improving their futures.

SSA has taken steps to wind down these programs by informing current WIPA and PABSS grantees to stop taking new clients and to finish their work with existing clients. Service disruption will further discourage beneficiaries from working—the very problem these programs were designed by Congress to address. In addition, gaps in service will result in the loss of experienced work incentive staff members that are specially trained on the complexities of the current work incentive system and rules. Shutting down and reopening WIPA services will cost far more in terms of dollars and lost ex-

pertise than a simple continuation. While Easter Seals believes SSA has the authority and funding to continue WIPA and PABSS through the end of fiscal year 2012, we strongly support your legislative fix to make it absolutely clear and to avoid future shutdowns of these programs.

Easter Seals applauds your efforts to continue these important programs for people with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to move the bill through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

KATY BEH NEAS,
Senior Vice President, Government Relations.

IN TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN RYAN
RAWL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 29, 2012

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 20, 2012, Captain Ryan Rawl, of Lexington, South Carolina, was killed in action while serving in the South Carolina Army National Guard in Afghanistan. Captain Rawl is a graduate of Lexington High School in 2000. After graduating from high school, Captain Rawl furthered his education and graduated from The Citadel in 2004 with a major in Criminal Justice before joining the South Carolina National Guard in 2006. While in college, Captain Rawl received an award for his outstanding service on the school's Honor Court and enjoyed leading underclassmen in Bible study. Captain Rawl joined the National Guard in 2006. Since his active duty deployment, Captain Rawl has received numerous decorations and honors including The Bronze Star, The Purple Heart, The Combat Action Badge, The South Carolina Medal of Valor, and The South Carolina Meritorious Service Medal.

We are able to enjoy our freedoms due to the sacrifices of the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces. Captain Rawl paid the ultimate sacrifice dedicating his life protecting American families and all of the freedoms we hold so dear.

My thoughts and prayers are with wife, Katherine, and their two young children, Callie and Caleb, as well as his parents Stanley and Diane Rawl. As a Guard veteran myself with four sons currently serving in the military, I particularly appreciate your extraordinary military family. Freedom is not free.

RECOMMENDING THAT ATTORNEY
GENERAL ERIC HOLDER BE
FOUND IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters to Ranking Member ELIJAH CUMMINGS regarding H. Res. 711.