

HONORING THE WORLD WAR II
VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II veterans who traveled to Washington, DC, on July 11, 2012 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II veterans the opportunity to visit the World War II Memorial on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. This memorial was built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on July 11 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorial. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Russell J. Abbott, Elizabeth M. Adamo, Kenneth H. Amdall, William B. Barnard, Philip Basic, Marvin D. Berns, Joseph A. Bertucci, Forest Black, Edward N. Boersma, Robert Bourdage, John A. Brodinski, Michael P. Cernyar, Leonard E. Chapp, Bernard J. Chesner, Daniel L. Chorney, Raymond E. Crotty, John A. Deora, Xenophon Doudalis, Robert C. Ellis, David Epstein, E. John Faassen, Natale Fazio, Peter A. Ferro, Ruthe C. Foster, Walter C. Gardynski, August Genge, Jr., Owen Gillespie, Helmuth Goering, Kent Goldbranson, W. Leonard Gregory, Lad Gregurich, John F. Gruber, Lewis Hague, Rueben W. Helander, Raymond F. Henders, James H. Hurley, Howard J. Jacklin, William N. Johnson, Raymond G. Kapinus, Edward Kelby, Vette E. Kell, Arthur M. Koblish, Ronald E. Kregel, Sophie E. Kulaga, James Lamont, Donald L. Lawler, Richard H. Leadbetter, Albert Lee, Howard D. Levinson, Philip J. LoMonaco, Louis Lowy, Raymond Lowy, Teddy A. Madej, Alvin B. Manheim, Randall E. McMinn, Eugene S. Mikos, John R. Minerick, Salvatore Morello, William R. Morrow, Glen E. Nelson, Henry L. Offerman, Edwin Ogonowski, Arthur Olsen, Calvin Parmele, Myron Petrakis, Raymond Anthony Pfeifer, Martin A. Poenisch, Daniel C. Reese, Amos John Roberts, John Patrick Roche, Ray Rooney, Frederick Rosenow, Eugene H. Seibert, Richard A. Siver, Donald E. Skelton, Charles A. Smith, Ora L. Smith, Richard L. Soderlund, Thomas E. Sullivan, Arthur R. Tessmann, Jasper C. Tromp, William John Unger, Jack Vollriede, Owen F. Wagener, Harry R. Warren, Joseph G. Wegrzyn, Oddie Wiley, Raymond A. Wilke, Ferguson L. Willis, William Fred Wilson, William F. Wolf, Arthur W. Youngberg.

HEALTHCARE REPEAL AND
WOMEN'S RIGHTS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this bill will never become law, and it is a perfect symbol of the failure of this Congress.

Over the last two years we've voted more than 30 times to mess with the healthcare reforms in the Affordable Care Act. This Congress could barely bring itself to pass a transportation bill, yet it found the time to vote on the same issue 30 times.

The second biggest priority of this Congress appears to be the legislative war on women. We've taken at least 9 votes to take away rights and protections away from women, and specifically attacking women's health.

In short, this Congress has spent two years actively working against the rights of women and healthcare of American families.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act becoming law, being a woman was a pre-existing condition. Women were denied health insurance coverage because they were victims of domestic abuse, and when they were given health insurance coverage, they oftentimes paid more than men for the same level of care. Companies that have a large number of female employees faced higher healthcare costs than other companies—all because health insurance companies could, and did, get away with price discrimination.

The Affordable Care Act finally gave women equal rights when it came to healthcare, and it is the reason I rise to defend that lifesaving legislation today. I strongly oppose the political charade that is being carried out here today—and on behalf of every woman who is no longer a second-class citizen, I urge my colleagues to vote against today's bill.

SUPPORTING PROTECTION OF FEDERAL
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." College access and success are fundamental stepping stones toward economic security and global competitiveness. As policymakers, it is imperative that we support students in making college affordable so that our citizens and nation can prosper.

I strongly supported the passage by the House of the bipartisan Senate agreement to prevent a doubling of the student loan interest rates. Without this action before July 1, more than seven million students would have seen their interest rates double, resulting in an approximate \$1000 additional debt burden per student for this year. Indeed, failure to act would have added \$6.3 billion to students' debt burden in 2012, with 1.5 million African-American students and 1 million Latino students experiencing an additional \$1.5 billion

and \$1 billion in loan repayment costs, respectively.

Unfortunately, the agreement prevents the interest rate hike by cutting student financial aid, continuing a disturbing trend in which the Republican Leadership insists that low-income and middle-class students pay for federal student aid programs and deficit reduction. In the last two years, the Republican Leadership has insisted on multiple cuts to student aid, including: elimination of the interest subsidy for graduate student loans; elimination of the interest subsidy for the six-month grace period after finishing school; elimination of summer Pell grants; reduction in the number of semesters a student can receive Pell grants; erection of barriers to qualifying for the maximum Pell grant; and reduced eligibility for the minimum Pell grant award. These cuts require low-income and middle-class students to incur roughly \$20 billion in the cost of their federal loans and resulted in 145,000 students losing their Pell grants. Rather than viewing federal support for higher education as an investment in our nation, Republicans in the House prefer to subsidize oil companies that make tens of billions of dollars in profits rather than help low-income and middle-class students afford college. I firmly believe that we must help all citizens access the American dream, not just the most privileged. We must strengthen the system of student aid, not weaken it.

In addition to interest rates, there are multiple other education policies that lawmakers must support in order to prepare our youth for the future. For example, we must increase Pell Grants, which constitute a critical avenue by which low-income students access higher education. If Pell Grants are reduced in any way, attending and completing college will be beyond the financial reach of the vast majority of low-income students. Reductions in Pell also will have a disparate negative impact on racial and ethnic minority groups given that 46% of African Americans, 39% of Hispanics, 36% of American Indians, and 22% of Asian American and Pacific Islander undergraduate students rely on Pell, with African Americans representing about one-quarter and Latino Americans representing approximately one-fifth of Pell recipients. For the 2012–2013 academic year, the maximum Pell Grant will be at a historic low, covering less than one-third of the cost of a four-year degree. This is unacceptable.

Further, policymakers must also maintain consumer protections on student loans, such as income-based repayment as well as re-institute bankruptcy protections for private student loans. Income-based repayment is a critical improvement to financial aid that makes higher education affordable by limiting repayment based on the income and family size of borrowers. For most borrowers, loan payments end up being less than 10 percent of their income—or nothing if the borrower experiences financial difficulty. After 25 years of qualifying payments, the remaining loan amount is eligible for forgiveness. These Democratically-championed policies promise to help borrowers handle their student loan debt in a responsible manner as they enter the workforce, have families, and purchase homes.

Consumer protections related to bankruptcy for private student loan debt are equally important, but will require Congressional action. Unfortunately, without any hearings, in 2005 Congress made private student loans by for-

profit lenders extremely difficult to discharge in bankruptcy even after meeting the restrictive criteria for bankruptcy, treating private student debt in the same manner as debts for criminal penalties and back taxes. This 2005 change gave special federal protections to for-profit lenders, penalized borrowers for pursuing higher education, and provided no incentive to private lenders to lend responsibly. Private education debt is no different than other consumer debt; it involves private profit and deserves no privileged treatment. Congress must restore fairness in student lending by treating privately issued student loans in bankruptcy the same as other types of private debt. This is why I introduced the Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Act, which I will continue to champion until it is law.

A strong economy requires an educated workforce, and an educated workforce comes from ensuring students and their families have what they need to prepare for, enroll in, and complete college. Given that student debt has surpassed credit card debt for the first time in history, our economy remains fragile, and the labor market demands increased skills, now is not the time to make deep and permanent cuts to critical college programs serving needy students. I urge the Republican Leadership to invest in education and support students. I will steadfastly protect federal financial assistance for higher education so that we can build our youth for the future.

HONORING THE LADY JACKET'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Lady Jacket Basketball team of Rockwall, Texas for their efforts during the 2012 4A State Championship game in Austin, Texas.

The game was extremely close; however, the Lady Jackets fell short 45–42, showing incredible heart and determination throughout the game. I commend their hard work throughout the entire season.

The Lady Jacket's head coach, Jill McDill, praised her team as one of the best defenses she had ever coached.

Special congratulations to Paige Turner and Alyssa Lang for being named to the Class 4A All-Tournament Team.

The reputation of the Lady Jacket Basketball program is one that is filled with pride and respect from the players, fans, and the entire Rockwall community.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us recognize Rockwall's Lady Jacket Basketball team, commend them for their successful season, and wish them continued success.

CONGRATULATING ORASURE TECHNOLOGIES FOR HIV/AIDS BREAKTHROUGH

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to draw attention to a landmark decision by the

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) last week approving the OraQuick In-Home HIV test and commend OraSure Technologies for this profound advancement in HIV/AIDS diagnostics. This test is the first rapid over-the-counter HIV test approved in the United States. The OraQuick In-Home HIV test detects the presence of HIV antibodies roughly 20 minutes after a simple oral swab. It is also the first rapid diagnostic test for any infectious disease that has been approved by the FDA for sale over-the-counter.

The FDA's decision is a significant moment in the history of our fight against HIV/AIDS. Since the beginning of the epidemic, getting individuals tested has been a critical component of HIV prevention and linkage to care. HIV testing enables individuals to know their status and protect their health as well as the health of others. Yet, over 1 million Americans are unaware of their infection. Those who do not know they have HIV are disproportionately responsible for the nearly 50,000 new infections that occur each year. The availability of an over-the-counter test will lead to greater testing, increased diagnoses, reduced transmissions, earlier treatment and saved lives.

OraSure Technologies, located in the heart of the Lehigh Valley in the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, has been at the forefront of rapid diagnostics for over a decade. This most recent accomplishment comes on the heels of the company receiving approval for our nation's first rapid test for Hepatitis C. Headquartered in Bethlehem, PA, OraSure's innovation has led to an economic resurgence on a brownfield site where Bethlehem Steel once stood proud.

Again, it is an honor to commend OraSure for leading the way in transforming diagnostic testing through innovative new technologies and playing a key role in what will hopefully be a transformation in the fight against HIV/AIDS. I want to extend my congratulations to the company and all of its employees for earning approval of the first over-the-counter in-home HIV test. This achievement will have a dramatic impact on the number of individuals who will learn their HIV status and most importantly, save countless lives.

FORCED ABORTION AT 7 MONTHS OF FENG JIANMEI SPARKS GLOBAL OUTRAGE—AND CON- CERN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, China's one-child policy in effect since 1979 is state sponsored murder and constitutes massive crimes against humanity. The Nuremberg Nazi war crimes tribunal properly construed forced abortion as a crime against humanity—nothing in human history compares to the magnitude of China's 33 year assault on women and children.

Abortion is a weapon of mass destruction. Millions have been exterminated.

Today in China, rather than being given maternal care, pregnant women without birth allowed permits are hunted down and forcibly aborted. They are mocked, belittled, and humiliated.

In recent days, the exploitation and forced abortion at seven months of Feng Jianmei has sparked global outrage—and deep concern for her welfare and that of the women of China (In early July, the European Parliament “strongly condemned” China's one child and forced abortion policy). While Feng remains in a hospital—she calls it a prison—her husband, Deng, has been beaten. Feng's gross mistreatment however is far too commonplace.

Feng Jianmei was forced to undergo an abortion on June 2nd, seven months into her pregnancy. Media reports indicate that local officials in northwestern Shaanxi Province held Ms. Feng for three days, blindfolded, and coerced her to consent to the abortion. Even with the supposed consent, it took five men to hold her down and administer the drug that induced the 48 hour labor. The injection was given directly to the child's head.

Ms. Feng's husband, Deng, posted graphic photos of his wife and the dead baby online, embarrassing the government. Deng Jicai, Mr. Deng's sister, said her brother and sister-in-law had refrained from speaking to media but decided to speak to German reporters who traveled to Shaanxi when the government did not produce investigation results as promised.

Ms. Deng reported to the media that the local government organized a backlash against the family members, calling them traitors and keeping them under surveillance, apparently angered over the family's contacts with journalists. Local residents took a long bus ride to the hospital where Ms. Feng was recovering from the abortion and demonstrated with banners reading, “beat the traitors soundly and expel them from Zengjia township!” Family members claim that the demonstration seemed to be a campaign organized and funded by the local authorities but made to look like a spontaneous public gesture. Mr. Deng reportedly also was beaten and labeled a traitor for speaking out about the crime.

The China Daily reported that there was no legal basis for the fine of \$6,300 for the second pregnancy that Ms. Feng refused to pay. The local government also has admitted that Ms. Feng's legal rights were violated. Publicity surrounding the forced abortion prompted the firing of two local officials and warnings or demerits being issued against five others.

Mr. Deng escaped from the hospital where both he and his wife were being forcibly detained. He traveled to Beijing and hired a lawyer to sue the local government. Mr. Deng's location is now unknown, but it is believed that he is in hiding. Ms. Feng is still being held at the hospital.

The lawyer, Zhang Kai, said recently that he has sent a legal request on behalf of Feng's husband, Deng Jiyuan, asking local police and prosecutors to investigate criminal infractions in the case. Deng also is seeking unspecified compensation from the government, Zhang said.

The widespread circulation of the photos posted by Mr. Deng has prompted renewed debate in China and the world regarding the one-child policy, possibly including within the government itself. Researchers with a center affiliated with China's State Council, the equivalent of China's cabinet, argued in an essay published in the China Economic Times newspaper on July 3, 2012, that China should adjust the one-child policy “as soon as possible” to head off a potential demographic crisis.