

in unstable housing situations, paying the majority of their incomes towards rent and who remain at risk of becoming homeless.

Nationally it puts at risk the approximately 4.5 million low income families who depend on HUD programs for their housing needs, more than half of which include seniors and persons with disabilities.

The FY13 THUD bill underfunds Housing Choice vouchers by as much as \$440 million, which translates into 55,000 vouchers for low income families in FY13. That's 55,000 families with an average annual income of \$12,568 that will lose access to affordable housing.

Project-Based Rental Assistance is also underfunded and the legislation would only extend year-long contracts to certain property owners, leaving investors, owners and tenants uncertain about the future of the program. The consequence of this uncertainty could be fewer owners renewing their contracts and a reduction in the number of Section 8 units available to low-income families.

The bill continues to woefully underfund public housing. Capital funding for public housing has been shortchanged for the past decade, and without an increase, 1.1 million low income households will continue to be exposed to deteriorating living conditions and potential safety hazards.

This legislation also weakens federal efforts to assist those already homeless by underfunding Homeless Assistance Grants by more than \$200 million. This means fewer permanent housing units, which have been shown to prevent homelessness and are less costly than the alternative of providing emergency shelter and services. For example, the Economic Roundtable found that individuals who are homeless in Los Angeles utilize an average of \$34,000 a year in county services (not including costs to the city, state or federal government) and that once permanently housed that number drops to \$14,000 (including housing capital, federal rental assistance and services).

Now is the time to protect low income families by prioritizing funding for affordable housing during these tough economic times. Unfortunately this bill falls short in that regard and puts far too many families in jeopardy of finding themselves without a safe and affordable home to call their own.

I regret that in good conscience I cannot support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 412, I was absent due to personal reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HOWARD R. MAIER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Howard R. Maier, who is retiring after

23 years as Executive Director of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, better known as NOACA. He is being honored on July 12, 2012, on his retirement at the City Club of Cleveland.

As the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, or MPO, NOACA serves Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina Counties in Northeast Ohio, including all of Ohio's 10th Congressional District. NOACA prepares the region's Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. NOACA also conducts water quality and air quality planning.

Mr. Maier has overseen an annual budget of \$6.5 million, a staff of 42, and a governing board of 44 elected and appointed officials. Under Howard's leadership, NOACA has received awards from the National Association of Regional Councils, the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and Eco-City Cleveland, among others.

Howard Maier is a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Economics and his Masters in City Planning from Ohio State University, Howard earned his Master of Science in Public Management from Case Western Reserve University in 1974.

He was Director of Planning and Development for the City of Cleveland Heights and the Principal Planner for the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission before joining NOACA. He was asked by the NOACA board to step up as Acting Executive Director in 1989 when there was a leadership crisis at the agency. He was then appointed as Executive Director in 1991, where he served until his recent retirement in June 2012.

Howard Maier has distinguished himself with many awards and honors during his years with NOACA, including Honorary Membership in the American Institute of Architects, Mayfield High School Hall of Fame, Ally of the Year for the Northeast Ohio Alliance for Hope, Distinguished Alumnus of Ohio State University's College of Engineering, and NOACA's "Wally," the Walter F. Ehrnfelt Award for Outstanding Regional Contribution.

Mr. Speaker, and distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Howard Maier as he enjoys his well-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 453 on H.R. 4367, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a weather delay.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

REPEAL OF OBAMACARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of repealing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

It's no secret that the U.S. health care system is broken; however, instead of strengthening the system, the Affordable Care Act took a top-down approach that will leave patients and taxpayers worse off than they were before.

I believe Americans should have access to effective and affordable care. This can best be accomplished by using market forces to improve quality and control cost.

I support allowing individuals to purchase health insurance across state lines and the expansion of associated health plans, health savings accounts, and other free-market reforms that allow individuals to be in control of their own healthcare decisions.

Americans have a choice when they buy a car or go to the grocery store. Why can't they have that same choice when purchasing something as important as health care?

I also support allowing small employers and individuals to pool together to purchase health insurance, thereby giving them greater buying power to negotiate when purchasing a plan.

Expanding health savings accounts not only gives individuals maximum flexibility in determining how to spend their health care dollars, but it encourages saving and helps reduce the overall cost of health care.

Finally, I support reforming the tax code so individuals get the same incentives that employers currently have for purchasing health care.

These measures will make health care more affordable, and unlike the law we are repealing today, they are sustainable.

I yield back the balance of my time.

RECOGNITION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL GWEN BINGHAM (U.S. ARMY)

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a significant milestone being reached this year by Brigadier General Gwen Bingham. Brig. Gen. Bingham has been given the assignment to be the first woman ever to take command of the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The White Sands Missile Range encompasses nearly 3,200 square miles and is the largest military installation in the United States, used by the Army, Navy, Air Force, NASA, and other government agencies and private enterprises for research, development and training.

Prior to this assignment, Brig. Gen. Bingham was also the first woman to hold the position of Quartermaster General and Commandant of the U.S. Army Quartermaster School at Fort Lee (Virginia). As Quartermaster General, she was responsible for overseeing the training of more than 20,000 military students annually.

This milestone marks yet another impressive achievement in an already distinguished 31-year career for Brigadier General Bingham. It is a testament to her professionalism, character, and selfless sacrifice to her country. I am honored to recognize her continued achievements.

HONORING THE 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN UNDERWOOD

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate and extend my best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. John Underwood of Paris, Tennessee, on the seventieth anniversary of their wedding date.

This is truly an event to commemorate. Seventy years of marriage is a milestone that speaks to the Underwood's dedication and love to one another. No doubt their relationship has been through both times of joy and sorrow, and it has served as a stable influence in the lives of their family.

The seventieth wedding anniversary is often called the "platinum" anniversary. This is a fitting name, because what John and Grace share with each other, and with God, is indeed precious. The Underwoods are proud Americans and role models for us all. I am honored to salute their commitment to one another, their family, our community, and our nation. May God bless them with many more happy years together.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIX ASSURANCES AND THE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW IN TAIWAN

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two important anniversaries that are coming up this July 14th in relation to our close friend and ally: the country of Taiwan.

Since the end of World War II, the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of enormous strategic and economic benefit to both countries. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from Taiwan to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) to ensure that the United States would continue its robust engagement with Taiwan in the areas of commerce, culture, and security cooperation. On April 10, 1979, this important and lasting piece of legislation became the "Law of the Land" and has since served as the statutory basis for U.S.-Taiwan relations going forward.

After 33 years, the TRA still stands as a model of Congressional leadership in the history of our foreign relations, and, together with the 1982 "Six Assurances," it remains the cornerstone of a very mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

These "Six Assurances" were designed by President Reagan to further clarify U.S. policy toward Taiwan (in particular to the sale of arms to Taiwan,) to reiterate our commitment to Taiwan's security under the TRA and to reaffirm our position on Taiwan's sovereignty. It also stipulated that we would not pressure Taiwan to enter into negotiations with the PRC.

This coming July 14 marks the 30th anniversary of President Reagan issuing said Six As-

surances in 1982. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the lifting of martial law in Taiwan in 1987.

Martial law was promulgated in Taiwan on May 19, 1949 by Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist government. Its end 38 years later marked the longest imposition of martial law by a regime anywhere in the world. Even after the end of martial law, tight restrictions on the people of Taiwan's freedom of assembly, speech and the press remained in place. Nevertheless, July 14, 1987 set the stage for a momentous process of democratization in Taiwan that continues to this day.

Over the past three decades, Taiwan has remained a trusted ally of the United States that shares with us the ideals of freedom and democracy. However, the people of Taiwan continue to live day after day under the ominous shadow cast by over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has aimed at them. The PRC persists in claiming Taiwan as a "renegade province," refusing to renounce the use of force to prevent Taiwan's formal de jure independence.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commemorating this July 14 the 30th anniversary of the Six Assurances and the 25th anniversary of the lifting of martial law in Taiwan, to further underline our unwavering commitment to the people of Taiwan and to affirm our support for the strong and deepening relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

H. RES. 711, RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FIND ERIC H. HOLDER, JR., ATTORNEY GENERAL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS FOR REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA DULY ISSUED BY THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2012

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, the Resolution holding Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr. in contempt of Congress and the accompanying report approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform have significant flaws. Although some are simply misleading, others are significant legal deficiencies and factual errors that may call into the question the validity of the Resolution itself. These flaws are described in detail in a document available at <http://go.usa.gov/vSU> and are hereby incorporated for the record into these remarks.

For example, the Resolution and report would hold the Attorney General in contempt for not producing documents that were never demanded by the Committee's subpoena. The Committee's subpoena was issued on October 11, 2011, and it explicitly demanded documents up to the date it was issued. Documents created after October 11, 2011, clearly fall outside of the scope of the subpoena.

Yet, the Resolution and report would hold the Attorney General in contempt for not producing documents created between October

11, 2011, and December 2, 2011. The Resolution states, "That Eric H. Holder, Jr., Attorney General of the United States, shall be found to be in contempt of Congress for failure to comply with a congressional subpoena." The report explicitly covers documents from the date the Department sent a letter to Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY on February 4, 2011, to the date it formally withdrew that letter on December 2, 2011. The report states that the Attorney General should be held in contempt for not producing documents regarding "why it took so long for the Department to withdraw the letter."

Committee Chairman DARRELL E. ISSA reiterated his demand for documents covering this time period before an "emergency meeting" of the Rules Committee. When asked about this deficiency, the interpretation he provided of his own subpoena was incorrect. He stated: "... [runs to the end of this Congress]." In contrast, the text of the subpoena itself states: "With the exception of paragraphs 4 and 5, the time period covered by this subpoena is from August 1, 2009 to the present, unless otherwise specified." Since the subpoena was issued on October 11, 2011, it clearly covered documents only until October 11, 2011. Under the Chairman's interpretation, the subpoena's reference to "the present" actually would mean "the future."

The Committee's full subpoena is available for review at <http://go.usa.gov/wuD> and is hereby incorporated for the record into these remarks.

It should come as no surprise that the Resolution and Committee report contain such obvious deficiencies because Republican House leaders rushed to schedule the Floor vote only one week after the Committee voted on a strictly party-line basis to approve them.

REPEAL OF OBAMACARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the measure before us today. While the Supreme Court may have ruled Obamacare constitutional on the basis that it is a tax, that doesn't make it good policy. We owe it to the American people to repeal this middle-class tax hike and instead enact real reform that will rely on reasonable and proven market-driven solutions that do not trample on individual rights.

As we craft our replacement to Obamacare, however, we must protect one positive provision that was enacted as part of the law: the Medicaid funding included beginning addressing the longstanding disparity for Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories compared to the states. This funding represented a shared commitment between the federal and territorial governments to ensure the fiscal solvency of the territories' Medicaid programs. Although this additional funding was added to Obamacare legislation, it represents the culmination of years of discussion between the federal government and the territories, and is entirely separate from the rest of the law. If this funding is not replaced, Puerto Rico will