

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY REQUIRING CATHOLIC HOSPITALS AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE CONTRACEPTION IN EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLANS

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to President Obama's administrative rule requiring religious institutions that provide health insurance policies to supply coverage for medicines and procedures that violate the tenets of their faith.

Freedom of religion is one of the foundations of our country. Famously, in the early days of the Republic, the Vatican requested permission of the Continental Congress to appoint a bishop. The Congress wisely declined the appointment, recognizing that there was no appropriate role for government in the regulation of church activities.

Now, over 200 years later, the Obama administration wants to roll back the clock and make decisions for religious institutions that should properly be left to those institutions. People freely associate themselves with churches and their affiliated organizations, such as hospitals and schools. In doing so, they accept that they will abide by the rules of those organizations. The Obama administration has uniformly usurped the autonomy of each institution to set those rules upon themselves.

This is a dangerous precedent. It is not difficult to see further encroachments by the "all powerful" federal government upon the rights and privileges of church communities. Will the Department of Education begin setting curriculum standards for private religious schools? Will the Department of Labor set standards of employment for Catholic health facilities? Will the Department of Health and Human Services begin requiring end of life counseling that violates the teachings of certain religions?

During the healthcare debate of 2010 and after, assurances were given to Members of Congress and to leaders of religious organizations that nothing in the bill would or could be used to violate the right of conscience of any faithful American. I voted against the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, in part, because I feared exactly this; it is being used as a lever to force values upon the American people that are contrary to their own beliefs.

Let us hope this and future Congresses will work to repeal President Obama's takeover of healthcare and, by extension, the conscience of individual. Further, let us implement true healthcare reform that improves our system, lower costs, and protects the rights of Americans to have healthcare coverage that conforms to their values.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recog-

nizing the achievements of African American women throughout our nation's history.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, ASALH, selected the achievements of African American women as its theme for 2012. ASALH has issued a statement, which I bring to the Floor.

"African American women have played a myriad of critical roles in the making of our nation. Their labor and leadership, their motherhood and patriotism, and their intellect and artistic expression have all enriched both the African American community and the Nation at large. In slavery and freedom, their struggles have been at the heart of the human experience, and their triumphs over racism and sexism are a testimonial to our common human spirit."

"Many know of the accomplishments of a few prominent historic figures: Phillis Wheatley, the unlikely American patriot during the Revolutionary War, Harriet Tubman, the leader of the Underground Railroad from slavery, Ida B. Wells, the unyielding opponent of lynching, Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern Civil Rights Movement. Black women have been notable for standing against oppression. From Gwendolyn Brooks to Toni Morrison to Rita Dove, they have distinguished themselves in American letters, and in recent years they have been recognized as actors and recording artists with Academy Awards and Grammys."

"The accomplishments of these exceptional women are the expressions of a vibrant culture in which African American women play a singular role. The labors, struggles, organization, and sacrifices of common women have made possible the prominence of heralded individuals. In churches, community groups, literary societies, sororities, and advocacy organizations, African American women have been the core of organized black life, but here their strivings have often escaped the gaze of the public, and hence their history is too little known."

"Their story is unique in the annals of American history. Black women were held as slaves and middle-class black women labored while their counterparts were housewives. Subjected to a long history of stereotypes about their sexuality, morality, spirituality, and intellect, African American women have never succumbed to victimhood and have pressed forward to uplift themselves, their families, and their community."

"To gain an understanding of the history of African American women is to broaden our understanding of a people and the American Nation. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History dedicates the 2012 Annual Black History Theme to exploring African American women's roles in and contributions to the making of America."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the work of African American women throughout our nation's history.

CONGRATULATING CAROL W. FLEISHER

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carol W. Fleisher, who

recently was awarded the Outstanding Public Service Award from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in appreciation for her great efforts in support of this Nation's veterans. The Outstanding Public Service Award is the second highest honor given by the Chairman to a public servant who "has rendered service or assistance to considerable personal sacrifice, motivated by patriotism, good citizenship and a sense of public responsibility."

Mrs. Fleisher is the daughter of a career United States Air Force pilot, as well as the great-granddaughter of Senator James E. Watson from Indiana and former Speaker of the House of Representatives.

She attended the University of Maryland and graduated with a bachelor's degree in international relations and political science and minors in sociology and history. She attends the University of Missouri, where she is working toward her master's degree in religion. Currently, Mrs. Fleisher is the Director of Missouri University Veterans Center.

As director, Mrs. Fleisher has helped to develop one of the Nation's premier on-campus veterans centers located at the University of Missouri, providing a "one-stop" resource center to those in need of assistance. The veterans center provides valuable assistance for our military men and women who served this country with honor and distinction. Not only do they deserve our gratitude, but they also deserve our assistance for the sacrifices they made in defense of our great Nation.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Carol W. Fleisher for this well-deserved award.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF OFFICERS LAUREN KEILITZ AND MICHAEL DIBLASI

**HON. JON RUNYAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. RUNYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic and selfless actions of Officer Lauren Keilitz and Officer Michael Diblasi of the Barnegat Township Police Department in New Jersey's Third Congressional District.

At 8:44 p.m. on January 30, 2012, the Barnegat Township Police Department was dispatched to a reported car fire on Biscayne Road. Officers Keilitz and Diblasi responded and arrived to find a single motor vehicle fully engulfed in flames.

Shortly after arriving on scene, Officers Keilitz and Diblasi determined that the driver of the vehicle, Mario Dischiavi, was incapacitated in the driver's seat. Dischiavi was discovered by Officer Keilitz who was able to open the rear passenger door of the vehicle and observe Dischiavi through the thick smoke in the passenger compartment.

Officer Diblasi attempted to open the driver's door and could not get the latch to release, at which time he ran to retrieve a window punch from his patrol car in order to break the window and gain access.

Officer Keilitz, despite overwhelming heat and flames, was able to get the driver's door open and pull Dischiavi from the vehicle and drag him out of harm's way.

If it were not for the brave actions of these officers, the successful outcome surely would

have been different. Their choice to go above and beyond the call of duty, subjecting themselves to harm, to help a citizen in distress is the exemplary action that deserves this chamber's praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the heroic and courageous actions of Officers Lauren Keilitz and Michael Diblasi in their extraordinary lifesaving efforts.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPHINE  
ZAPPONE

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Josephine Zappone, on the occasion of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Zappone has been a devoted wife and loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother to her large family.

Born February 5, 1912 in Bronx, New York, to Pietro and Rosalie Nizzari, Mrs. Zappone née Nizzari was the fifth of six children in her family. In 1938, she married Frank Zappone, with whom she raised three children: Allen, June, and Francis.

Mrs. Zappone has become known for her beautiful knitting, a skill she learned from her mother as a child. During both World War I and World War II, young Josephine knitted caps, scarves, and gloves for soldiers fighting overseas. Now, instead of outfitting GIs, Mrs. Zappone knits to keep her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren warm.

Josephine and her late husband, Frank, made their home in the Bronx, where she has been an active member of Our Lady of Mount Cannel Church for 93 years. Since 1956, Josephine has summered in my hometown of Southampton, on the shores of Shinnecock Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and recognize Josephine Zappone, a woman who has seen enormous change and progress during her long life. I would like to send Mrs. Zappone and her family my warmest regards and best wishes for happy 100th birthday.

NATIONAL INFANTRY ASSOCIATION AWARDS LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RET.) DEWEY L. COLES THE ORDER OF ST. MAURICE

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Dewey L. Coles as a winner of the National Infantry Association's most prestigious award, the Order of St. Maurice.

Lieutenant Colonel Coles, at 21 years old, was one of the first soldiers to arrive on the ground in Korea during the summer of 1950. First serving as an artillery forward observer with the 24th Infantry Division and later as an aerial observer, Lieutenant Colonel Coles flew behind enemy lines to coordinate artillery attacks on Communist forces. For his tenure,

Lieutenant Colonel Coles earned two Bronze Stars for valor as well as two Air Medals for his courageous service.

The Order of St. Maurice is given to individuals who have demonstrated an exceptional degree of integrity, moral character, and professional competence during their service with the United States Army Infantry. I am so proud to announce this honor will be presented to Lieutenant Colonel Coles on February 9, 2012 by Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert J. LeBlanc in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

It is due to the character and sacrifice of individuals like Lieutenant Colonel Coles that we are able to enjoy the blessings of freedom and prosperity here in the United States of America. I thank Lieutenant Colonel Coles for his brave service to our country and congratulate him on this much deserved award from the National Infantry Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 2012, I missed rollcall votes 31, 32, and 33 because of district business. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 31 and "no" on rollcall 32. I would also have voted "yes" on rollcall 33, because it is critical to support aviation jobs and safety in our skies. However, I am strongly opposed to the inclusion of anti-labor provisions that will increase from 35 percent to 50 percent the required number of employees who must show interest in forming a union before the National Mediation Board can allow election procedures to begin. These provisions will make it more difficult for American workers to organize for the protection of their rights, pay and safety. I encourage my colleagues to immediately begin consideration of legislation to reverse these misguided provisions.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. GLENN ELLIS,  
SR.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 3, 2012*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Glenn Ellis, Sr. Mr. Ellis is an internationally respected health educator, complementary medicine consultant and author.

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Ellis attended the University of Pennsylvania more than three decades ago. It was just the first step in his lifelong commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of others. Mr. Ellis continued his studies at the International College of Bio-Dynamics and the Atlantic Academy of Classical Homeopathy.

He maintains a busy lecture schedule in the U.S. and abroad, where he highlights health disparities and medical ethics. Mr. Ellis speaks at churches and community centers and is a popular and well sought-after university guest lecturer. He has made scientific presentations in Belgium, Germany, Cuba, and The Netherlands.

For years, health-conscious Philadelphians have tuned into his weekly radio broadcasts and commentary, where Mr. Ellis can be relied upon to dispense practical medical information. Mr. Ellis' unique broadcasts are now heard in 53 U.S. markets and 53 countries around the world.

Mr. Ellis serves on the Institutional Review Board and the Ethics Committee of Mercy Health Systems in Philadelphia. In 2005, he became a member of the Institutional Review Board of Thomas Jefferson Health Systems. He was a part of the Black Media Delegation at the 2010 International AIDS Conference in Vienna, Austria, and presented recently presented on Inclusion and Retention of African Americans in Clinical Trials in Havana.

In addition to serving on the Board of Universal Charter Schools and Communities in Schools Philadelphia, he was recently appointed to serve on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Youth Violence by the Mayor and School superintendent of Philadelphia.

Mr. Ellis was a Borough Councilman in Yeadon, Pennsylvania until 2001, serving as Chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee. Currently he is President of Strategies for Well-Being, LLC, a health education and consulting company headquartered in Philadelphia, where he consults with national corporate clients on promoting and providing health education for consumers and providers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you, and my other distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Mr. Glenn Ellis, Sr. for his accomplishments and service.

TO EXTEND THE PAY LIMITATION  
FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

SPEECH OF

HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2012*

Mr. PIERLUISI. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3835, which would extend an existing pay freeze on federal employees for a third straight year, through December 2013.

Federal employees often forego private sector employment to serve our nation. They perform essential services, ensuring that our mail is delivered, that our Social Security checks are issued, and that our drinking water remains clean. Federal employees also investigate drug smuggling, issue patents, and provide health services and other benefits to our Island's veterans. These are only a few of the many functions that federal employees perform every day in their work for the American people.

Federal employees are willing to do their share to reduce the deficit. However, it is unfair to place the burden of reducing the deficit entirely on their backs. Federal employees have already contributed \$60 billion toward deficit reduction by accepting a two-year pay freeze. We should not ask this one particular group to make additional sacrifices when we are not asking other Americans to make similar sacrifices.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and to treat federal employees with the respect they deserve.