

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PAIN-CAPABLE UNBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, as a society we must work to ensure that lives of those who are unable to protect themselves are safeguarded; however elected leaders also have an obligation to ensure that laws which are passed, especially at the national level, allow for public input by the people they affect.

I strongly agree with the underlying intent of H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, to prevent the termination of lives of the most vulnerable in our society—that of unborn children. H.R. 3803 would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy, except when an acute physical condition endangers the life of the mother. The bill further requires that any termination of pregnancy be done in a manner that provides the best conditions for the unborn child to survive.

I am, however, concerned with the process used to develop and publicly debate the bill. Further, I am concerned about the impact it has on home rule for the District of Columbia. Congress has delegated much authority to the D.C. government to establish policies that reflect the needs of those who live here. But H.R. 3803, which only affects Washington, D.C., would implement this abortion ban without the input of D.C. residents and Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON who represents the people of the District of Columbia in the United States Congress.

I believe that the United States should enact strong policies that recognize and protect the sanctity of human life. However if Congress wants to make meaningful progress to achieve this, legislation should consider the views of those impacted by the legislation and not ignore their points of view or concerns.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION AND SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Today, a time of heightened tensions in U.S.-Iran relations, I voted for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, H.R. 1905, a balanced and serious approach towards ensuring Iran will never have nuclear weapons.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have firmly opposed the use of indiscriminate sanctions as a blunt tool of foreign policy, one often more successful as political fodder than as leverage to effect positive change.

The timing of previous Iran sanctions legislation was damaging, undermining the administration in the midst of complex, delicate discussions with Iran. Today, the circumstances have changed. Negotiations are stalled, and this legislation has been focused and toned-down, making it an asset, not a liability, for the administration as it works to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran.

A coherent and unified U.S. policy towards Iran is the best way to strengthen diplomacy, which remains the best, some say the only, way to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. This revised legislation—based on input from a broad coalition, including the White House—brings coherence and focused pressure to the negotiating table.

I commend Chairwoman ROS LEHTINEN and Ranking Member BERMAN of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for producing a bill that is based on policy, not politics. There were extreme voices pushing to include some very harsh language that, for example, would have made the few currently permitted humanitarian transactions with Iranian financial institutions illegal. To the benefit of the U.S. and innocent Iranian civilians, these provisions were left out.

Another critical change to this legislation is language that clarifies in the Act is not an authorization of the use of force against Iran or Syria.

The resolution would provide the administration with additional leverage for their broader diplomatic effort. Sanctions are effective when it is clear that if concessions are made, the other side has the ability to reciprocate by easing elements of the sanctions regime. This bill provides the administration with such flexibility.

In the midst of negotiations yet to yield progress, focused sanctions that unite both Congress and the executive provides leverage that increases the likelihood of success, and an alternative to military action, which our nation can ill-afford and which I oppose.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 539, on Tuesday, July 31, 2012, my plane was delayed in Detroit due to bad weather. As a result, I missed votes that evening, including a measure of personal importance, H.R. 3803, the District of Columbia Pain Capable Unborn Child Act.

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

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL GUARD UNIT IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will authorize the Secretary of the Department of Defense to establish a National Guard unit in American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, the National Guard has a long, proud history in the United States. As part of their federal duties, National Guard units have been mobilized to supplement regular armed forces during times of war or national emergencies. As State entities, National Guard units have been utilized in their respective States upon declaration of a State of Emergency.

National Guard troops have been activated in response to emergencies as a

result of snowstorms, droughts, flooding, earthquakes, and other natural hazards that require providing basic necessities to people across the country. Indeed, one is reminded that National Guard units played a major role in providing security and assisting recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, in September 2005.

Mr. Speaker, today, there are 54 separate National Guard units—one for each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, plus Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There is no National Guard unit in American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, on September 29, 2009, American Samoa was hit by a powerful earthquake which struck below the ocean about 140 miles southwest of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and 125 miles south of Samoa. The earthquake, which registered 8.3 on the Richter scale, set off a massive tsunami that crashed into American Samoa. Entire villages were devastated creating a disaster of epic proportion in the Territory.

Mr. Speaker, one of the lessons of the 2009 Tsunami is the fact that American Samoa is prone to disasters and we must be prepared. Especially, with American Samoa being out there on its own in the midst of the vast South Pacific Ocean, it is very difficult to coordinate and organize first responders from the mainland. Having a National Guard unit is extremely helpful when there is a State emergency.

In addition, American Samoa has a per capita enlistment rate in the U.S. military which is higher than any State or U.S. Territory. Our sons and daughters have served in record numbers in every U.S. military engagement from WWII to present operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have stood by the United States in good times and bad, and I believe this relationship would only be strengthened by establishing a National Guard unit in American Samoa.

For these reasons, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to establish a National Guard unit in American Samoa. I understand that there are several other issues to consider in order to fulfill the objectives of this legislation. My hope is to work together with my colleagues to make improvements and adjustments as needed.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

CONGRATULATING JOHN ANNALORO ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor John Annaloro, the CEO of the Northwest Credit Union Association, on his retirement after nearly 30 years of working in the credit union industry.

John's passion for people and economics first brought him to the credit union industry in

the mid-1980s. After leading the Congressional and regulatory affairs teams of the California Credit Union League, John became the CEO at the Washington Credit Union League in 1997. He led the Washington League through an efficient and effective merger with the Credit Union Association of Oregon in 2011. Now known as the Northwest Credit Union Association, this organization advocates for more than 160 credit unions in the States of Washington and Oregon. Currently nearly 4.4 million consumers belong to a credit union in Washington and Oregon.

John came to the credit union movement with a great deal of previous experience. He spent seven years as the Chairman and CEO of a computer software development corporation with a worldwide client base. He spent six years at the University of California as a mathematics professor, dean, and department chairman. He is an author with more than a dozen published books and articles on computer science and business. This extensive expertise explains John's approach to effecting change in the credit union system.

Under John's leadership, Washington credit unions encouraged the creation of a television program, BizKid\$ on PBS, to teach school children about business. John was approached by a team of producers who were trying to create a program to help educate children about corporations, financial responsibility, and entrepreneurship. John and his staff brought credit unions together to finance this program, which is now seen by children in nearly every State.

John worked to ensure credit unions would lend responsibly and was a driving force behind the establishment of the Business Lending School at the Northwest Credit Union Association. Through this, credit union professionals receive expert training on business lending issues. On John's watch, the credit unions of the Northwest maintained a safe and sound financial position, even during times of overall financial instability.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize John Annaloro. John is a leader who personifies the core philosophy of credit unions, which is "People Helping People." I wish him the best for his retirement.

MARINE DEBRIS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Marine Debris Act Reauthorization Amendments, which is important legislation to my district in Northern California and the West Coast. This bipartisan legislation will maintain current efforts to remove marine debris from our coastlines, provide updates on the status of marine debris, and prevent redundant activities among state and federal agencies.

Marine debris has been a problem for our oceans and coasts for decades. Trash has been filling our oceans and thereby impacting human health, harming wildlife, and littering our favorite beaches. For over 25 years, we have been relying heavily on volunteers, non-

governmental organizations, and local governments to patrol our shores and pick up our trash. For example, in 2010 more than 5,400 cars could have been outfitted with the tires found during beach cleanup efforts. The work of these volunteers and organizations is invaluable and they need our help. Not only in terms of their planned cleanup activities, but to help in times of catastrophic events that create debris that is beyond physical and fiscal capabilities to remove.

Today, marine debris is of even more concern since a massive tsunami tragically struck the coastline of Japan 16 months ago. The disaster claimed nearly 16,000 lives, injured 6,000, and destroyed or damaged well over a million buildings with 130-foot waves.

Studies by the Japanese government estimate approximately 5 million tons of debris was swept into the ocean. Of that, 1.5 million tons are thought to be heading towards the West Coast of the United States.

As the Congressional representative for the longest coastline in the lower 48 states, the impending arrival of the tsunami debris is of utmost concern. It is essential that we have fully developed contingency plans to remove debris that hits our shores, especially objects that are considered hazardous.

Over the past few months, debris from the Japanese tsunami (ranging from soccer balls to 66-foot piers) has landed along the Pacific Coast of the United States. It is clear we cannot deal with this issue without proper funding and resources. In this economic climate, we need to think critically and creatively to develop funding solutions that address this increase in marine debris.

The reauthorization of the Marine Debris Program by this legislation will facilitate national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of garbage on our shores. Once we pass this crucial legislation, the next step is to provide funding to our states to handle both emergency debris issues and everyday trash problems.

Marine debris is a global problem with local implications. More than ever, we need knowledge and guidance on marine debris and I urge a yes vote for H.R. 1171.

HONORING NATALIE DELL OF THE USA OLYMPIC TEAM

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Natalie Dell, an outstanding athlete selected to the United States Olympic Team from the 9th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. I am very proud to announce that Natalie and her Olympic team earned the bronze medal in yesterday's Women's quadruple sculls boat event.

Natalie Dell, raised in Clearville, PA was a standout track star throughout her high school career. Upon attending Penn State University, Dell decided that she had reached her full potential in track and field and wanted to pursue another competitive sport. She chose to begin rowing where she quickly fell in love with the sport. After graduation, she continued to hone her strength and technique and joined the Riv-

erside Boating Club in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Although Natalie was less experienced than the rest of her peers, her talent and status advanced rapidly as she soon became a member of the U.S. National Rowing Team. Her rigorous training and the perfection of her skill proved to be well worth the effort. Dell achieved a position on the 2012 Olympic Women's quadruple sculls boat and is the first alumnus from Penn State to row for the USA National Rowing Team. Her six day per week, two-a-day training has aptly prepared this courageous woman to represent the United States and the 9th district of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate this Olympic hero of Pennsylvania's 9th district. With her effort and determination, this young lady is destined to do great things for our country and the 9th district of Pennsylvania. I am very proud of her hard work and determination to help secure a win for the United States Olympic Team, and am very happy to see that all of her work has paid off with such an enormous honor. I hope you join me in congratulating Natalie Dell and her teammates and wishing the rest of our Olympic athletes well in their respective competitions at this year's Games.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES B. RENACCI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 538 and 539, I would have voted "yea" on both.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA BASEBALL

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise and celebrate the achievements of the University of Arizona baseball team, which has been selected for induction into the University of Arizona Sports Hall of Fame.

This honor is extremely well deserved.

Earlier this summer, the UA Wildcats were crowned national champions after winning the College World Series in Omaha for the fourth time.

The Wildcats won the title by beating the South Carolina Gamecocks 4 to 1.

This was the Wildcats' year. They won all 10 of their postseason games—going through the regionals, the super regionals and the College World Series without a loss. In those 10 games, they outscored their opponents 88 to 28.

I want to especially make note of the play of Robert Refsnyder, the right fielder for the Wildcats, who was named the most valuable player of the 2012 College World Series.

I also want to praise the work of Head Coach Andy Lopez. He previously won a national title as coach of Pepperdine University, and this is the first of what we expect to be many titles with the University of Arizona.

The decisions Mr. Lopez made throughout the College World Series were crucial in Arizona's success. I'm sure he has more national titles in his future at Arizona.