

paycheck—not a government check—is the best escape from the clutches of poverty and the best hope of building a better life.

Unfortunately, the Obama Administration has announced its intention to allow states to opt out of these requirements. I believe Congress must emphatically reject this plan. We must refuse to go down a path that leads us back to a sad and painful time in our history where millions of American families were trapped in a cycle of poverty and dependency. This is the stark choice we have before us today.

The Administration's plan is egregious on process as well as substance. By blatantly going beyond their statutory authority, the Administration's action fits into a growing and disturbing pattern of this President disregarding the law and acting unilaterally to override laws duly enacted by Congress. We cannot stand by and allow the executive branch to trample on the Constitutional authority of this body, which has the sole power to legislate.

Given these concerns, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution of disapproval and reject the Administration's misguided attempt to undermine the hope of prosperity for millions of American families eager to support themselves economically. Mr. Speaker, let us reaffirm the principle that, far more effectively than any government program, work places the American people on the path to self-sufficiency and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently vote "no" on rollcall vote No. 114 (to prohibit the use of funds for the salaries and expenses of personnel of the Department of Agriculture to provide benefits described in section 1001D(b)(1)(C) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(1)(C)) to a person or legal entity in excess of \$250,000) when I meant to vote "yes."

I would like to correct for the record that I wanted to vote "yes" on rollcall vote 114.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE R.I.C.E. ACT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reducing food-based Inorganic and Organic Compounds Exposure Act, or the R.I.C.E. Act. This bill, which I am proud to introduce with my colleagues Congressman PALLONE of New Jersey and Congresswoman LOWEY of New York, seeks to require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to set maximum allowable levels of arsenic in foods that contain rice.

Last year, a Consumer Reports test found concerning levels of arsenic in some juices. Based on that report, I was glad to support Congressman PALLONE's legislation that would

require the FDA to set a maximum allowable level of arsenic and lead in fruit juices. I look forward to our continued work on this issue to protect the public health, which is why we have again partnered on this issue with this legislation. And I am glad to be working with Congresswoman LOWEY, a champion of children's health.

Recently, Consumer Reports completed another test on arsenic in our food supply, this time focusing on rice and rice products. That report found concerning levels of inorganic arsenic in some rice samples—including infant rice cereals and beverages. For example, an adult consuming a single serving of some rice products had the possibility of getting nearly one and a half times the amount of inorganic arsenic that they would consume from an entire day's intake of water. The report also noted that individuals who consume rice have higher arsenic levels than those that did not consume rice.

Another report published in Environmental Health Perspectives earlier this year identified high levels of inorganic arsenic in products containing organic brown rice syrup. The published study noted that the sampled products "may introduce significant concentrations of [inorganic arsenic] to an individual's diet." And, The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences published an article in December 2011 entitled "Rice consumption contributes to arsenic exposure in US women" that highlighted the association between rice consumption and a biomarker of arsenic exposure in women.

Clearly, it is imperative that the FDA act and set standards for acceptable levels of arsenic and other dangerous heavy metals in food products. This bill requires them to set such a level for arsenic in rice and foods containing rice. I intend to continue to work on this issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONSUMERS UNION,
September 20, 2012.

Congresswoman ROSA DeLAURO,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN DeLAURO: Consumers Union, the policy and advocacy arm of Consumer Reports, applauds your introduction of legislation to require the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to set standards to help lower the levels of arsenic in rice and rice products.

As you know, yesterday Consumer Reports and the FDA each released important data showing troubling levels of arsenic in rice, which is a major food staple for millions of Americans. Inorganic arsenic—which both studies found in the various rice products examined—has been linked to bladder, lung and other cancers. The consumption of arsenic-containing rice is especially worrisome for infants and young children because of the negative impact arsenic may have on the developing brain.

Rice is not the only food that contains worrisome levels of arsenic. Indeed, in a previous report released earlier this year, Consumer Reports found troubling levels of arsenic in apple and other juices. Yesterday's findings underscore the health risks of arsenic, particularly inorganic arsenic, and how rice is a particularly important source of arsenic exposure for Americans. That's because rice is a crop that is very effective in absorbing arsenic, in part because of the way it is grown in water-flooded conditions and also because it is often grown in areas where arsenical pesticides were once used.

Consumer Reports tested over 200 samples of rice and rice products for arsenic, and we

found significant levels of arsenic across all product categories, everything from organic rice to rice cereal, brown rice, white rice, and rice cakes. FDA tests found similar levels in its examination of more than 200 samples of rice products. FDA Commissioner Hamburg announced her agency would continue to collect and analyze 1,000 more samples by year's end to make a thorough assessment and plan next steps.

We welcome and appreciate the FDA's efforts to prioritize its examination of arsenic in rice. We also believe that a federal standard limiting arsenic in rice and rice products is the best way to minimize consumers' exposure to unsafe levels of arsenic.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical safety issue. We look forward to working with you and other members of Congress to help reduce arsenic levels in food.

Sincerely,

ELLEN BLOOM,
Senior Director, Federal Policy and
Washington Office.
AMI V. GADHIA,
Senior Policy Counsel.

IN HONOR OF THE BOCHASANWASI
SHREE AKSHAR PURUSHOTTAM
MANDIR HOSTING SADGURU
SANT PUJYA KOTHARI SWAMI

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bochasanwasi Shree Akshar Purushottam Mandir in my home of Levittown, Pennsylvania for hosting Sadguru Sant Pujya Kothari Swami later this month for a spiritual evening event during his visit to the United States.

Pujya Kothari Swami, one of the seven most senior sadhus of BAPS, will be visiting the United States to perform the Opening Ceremony of the Satsang Activity Center in neighboring New Jersey. The work done by Pujya Kothari Swami in his missionary work across the country and around the globe is deeply respected and praised by the entire Swaminarayan community.

It is truly an honor for Bucks County to host this important spiritual figure in the Swaminarayan faith.

As my constituents gather together for a night of spiritual enlightenment and community, I join them in welcoming Pujya Kothari Swami and wish him all the best during his time in historic Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

THE EPITOME OF CHARITY— REGINA ROGERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in this day and age when most people think of things in terms of me and mine, there are still a few rare individuals who put others first. Regina Rogers is one of those rare individuals. At an early age, a very important question was engrained into Ms. Rogers' memory, and that question has been the motivation for much of

what she does. The question was, "What did you do for someone else today?"

I think it is safe to say that Regina has spent every day of her life doing extraordinary things for others. She is an active participant in community affairs and is the founder of several nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to the underserved communities of southeast Texas. In 1988, she founded and serves as Executive Director of the Ben Rogers/Lamar University/Beaumont Public Schools: "I Have A Dream" program. The organization has made available mentoring and guidance, along with \$4,000 scholarships to nearly 400 academically talented students who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend college.

Ms. Rogers is a Member of the Board of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, the Harris County Hospital District Foundation, the Pauline Sterne Wolff Memorial Foundation. She serves on the boards of the Children's Defense Fund Texas Advisory Board, the Babe Didrikson Zaharias Foundation, and the Holocaust Museum of Houston. She is also President of the Joe Louis International Sports Foundation, established in 1972 by her late father, Ben Rogers. She was the first female regent of Lamar University. For six years, she served as a member of the Texas College and University System Coordinating Board, where she was Chair of the Educational Opportunity Planning Committee for Minority Education in Texas, helping implement programs to increase admissions and retention of minority students and the hiring of minority faculty in colleges and universities throughout Texas.

Ms. Rogers established and serves as chair of the Julie Rogers "Gift of Life" program, which annually makes available more than 1,800 free mammograms (more than 18,000 since inception) and 500 prostate cancer screenings (more than 6,000 since 2000) for the medically underserved population of southeast Texas. In addition, the "Gift of Life" offers education that focuses on breast, ovarian, and other gynecological cancers, prostate, testicular, and lung cancer at 80 or more outreach programs a year, impacting nearly 17,000 people annually, as well as smoking prevention programming through its "Don't Smoke Your Life Away" campaign.

While Chair of the Southwest Regional Board of the Anti-Defamation League in 1994, Rogers helped found the Coalition for Mutual Respect, a group of religious and lay leaders whose annual programming includes pulpit exchanges that promote positive intergroup relations by encouraging understanding and respect among Houston's diverse population.

In 1997, Ms. Rogers established Inspire, Encourage, and Achieve, a program designed to perpetuate her father's legacy of helping young people achieve dignity and respect through knowledge, compassion, understanding, and love. IEA emphasizes rehabilitation for youth in detention and/or on probation, annually impacting more than four hundred juveniles in the Minnie Rogers Juvenile Justice Center and through its Ben's Kids outreach activities.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Ms. Rogers co-founded the Southeast Texas Emergency Relief Fund (SETERF) that provided several million dollars in assistance to thousands of people after the storms, including gift cards to social service agencies,

grants to faith-based organizations to assist with home repairs; and loans to small businesses affected by the storms. Regina also helped individuals who suffered losses from Hurricane Ike. She also served on the Bush-Clinton Coastal Recovery Fund and the Texas Governor's Disaster Recovery and Renewal Commission.

Ms. Rogers excellence has been recognized by others throughout the years. She was selected as a Distinguished Alumna of the University of Houston in 1994, and was named a Distinguished Woman of Northwood University. She was named a Child Advocate of the Year by CASA of southeast Texas; a Pacesetter of the Year by the Cancer League; a Woman of Distinction by KTRK/Channel 3 in Houston; and was a recipient of the Cherish our Children Award from the Child Abuse Prevention Network in Houston. She received the Press Club's 2002 Southeast Texas Newsmaker of the Year award; was a recipient of the 2003 Humanitarian Award from Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Beaumont, Inc.; named a 2005 Citizen of the Year by the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission; and was a recipient of the Cris Quinn Community Service Award in 2009 by the Jefferson County Bar Association.

Regina Rogers learned the importance of public service from her parents. She has carried on her parents' legacy by being a tireless advocate for those in need. She is an incredible woman with an abundance of energy, and a heart as big as Texas. Through her personal involvement in, and financial contributions to numerous organizations, she has left an indelible mark on southeast Texas. Our community is better because of her compassion and generosity. Regina Rogers is the epitome of charity, and a perfect example of what we should all aspire to. In the words of Ms. Rogers' late father, Ben Rogers, I ask you, "What have you done for someone else today?"

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF HUMMELSTOWN

HON. TIM HOLDEN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. HOLDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and my colleague, Representative CHARLIE DENT, to honor the 250th anniversary of the Borough of Hummelstown, Pennsylvania, and to recognize the many contributions its residents have made to our great Commonwealth.

The Borough of Hummelstown was originally founded as Frederickstown by Frederick and Rosina Hummel, who in 1762 purchased a plot of land in beautiful Dauphin County to call home. The Hummels divided the tract into numerous building lots and sold each to German settlers looking to start new lives in the region. Originally serviced by the Berks-Dauphin Turnpike, commerce through the borough was greatly enhanced by the opening of the Union Canal in 1827, which connected the Susquehanna River to the Schuylkill River outside Philadelphia. The Lebanon Valley Railroad later made the community even more attractive to businesses when it arrived in 1858.

Hummelstown was soon booming with jobs in stone cutting and shipyard work. With the borough growing and the nation expanding, the Hummelstown Brownstone Company (HBC) quickly became the leading employer of local residents from the late 19th Century to the early 20th Century. HBC owned and operated several quarries that produced Hummelstown brownstone, which at the time was one of the most popular building materials in the United States.

Today, Hummelstown is the very picture of the quaint American suburb. With a lively downtown area and genuine small town atmosphere, Hummelstown is home to many Pennsylvanians who commute to jobs in nearby Harrisburg and Hershey.

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of its founding, Hummelstown's various civic groups, businesses, churches, and other organizations have worked together to organize a busy week of events. These festivities included a parade, community breakfast and picnic, fireworks display, movie night, and family friendly events for children. Heritage Day, walking tours, and other activities showcased the rich history of Frederick Hummel's town and illustrated its bright future as an ideal location for families and businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand alongside my friend, Representative CHARLIE DENT, to honor Hummelstown on the occasion of its 250th anniversary. I would also like to congratulate the borough's residents on a highly successful anniversary celebration.

TRIBUTE TO ALPHA DELTA KAPPA INTERNATIONAL HONORARY ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN EDUCATORS

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization for Women Educators on its sixty-five years of dedicated service and proclaim October 2012 as Alpha Delta Kappa Month. Established in 1947, Alpha Delta Kappa's goals have been to establish high standards of education, give recognition to outstanding educators, build a fraternal fellowship among educators and to promote educational and charitable projects and activities enriching the lives of individuals everywhere.

With a membership of over 33,000 educators representing all fifty U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Jamaica and Australia, Alpha Delta Kappa is committed to educational excellence, personal and professional growth and for collectively channeling their energies toward the good of their schools, communities, the teaching profession and the world.

Women in education constitute a great portion of the nation's working force and are constantly striving to serve their communities and nation in educational, cultural, and charitable programs leading to harmony, happiness, and peace among all people.

Over the last few years, the members of Alpha Delta Kappa have given altruistically to the communities they serve by raising nearly \$14.5 million dollars and volunteering over 2 million service hours.