

HONORING LUKAS MILEWSKI AND CORMAC MOLLOY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS.

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of American ideals and has served as a tremendous example of how we can win friends around the world by providing trained workers and improving understanding between countries.

In October of 1960, then Senator John F. Kennedy challenged college students to commit themselves to serve overseas. Since 1961 more than 200,000 volunteers have answered that call to serve. Peace Corps volunteers have worked in 139 countries, helping people around the world in areas as diverse as education, AIDS prevention and treatment, agriculture, economic development and more. Five of my colleagues in Congress are former Peace Corps volunteers and can attest to the program's importance. As President Clinton stated, "When President Kennedy founded the Peace Corps in 1961, he saw it as a bold experiment in public service that would unite our nation's highest ideals with a pragmatic approach to bettering the lives of ordinary people around the world. He also saw it as an investment in our own future, in an increasingly interdependent world. In the years since, it's paid off many times over."

Two young people from my district can also attest to the important work the Peace Corps continues to perform. On behalf of the 5th District of Illinois, I would like to thank Lukas Milewski and Cormac Molloy, serving in Indonesia and Uganda respectively, for the service they are providing to our country and others.

PROTECTING ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2117) to prohibit the Department of Education from overreaching into academic affairs and program eligibility under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Mrs. ROBY. Madam Chair, I rise today to highlight the passage of H.R. 2117, the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act (H.R. 2117). The House of Representatives approved this legislation on February 28, 2012.

I am a proud cosponsor and a Member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, which debated and reported this bill out of Committee with a bipartisan vote last summer.

If enacted, this legislation would remove costly and burdensome regulations from colleges and universities across the country. In a time of federal government expansion, H.R.

2117 would help curtail the Department of Education's overreach into the rules and regulations governing institutions of higher learning. The bill contains two provisions that would repeal recent Department of Education mandates. These provisions relate to the federal definition of a credit hour and to the way states authorize and license institutions of higher education.

Historically, each institution of higher learning maintained the ability to determine what constitutes a credit hour subject to the oversight of accrediting agencies that would determine the specific number of credit hours to assign each course. Over time the federal government became more involved in the process. I strongly believe that the federal government should not impose a one-size-fits-all approach to determine standard credit hours for all colleges and universities. This decision should be made at the state and institutional levels.

Burdensome federal regulation of institutions of higher learning slow innovative learning and increase costs for students. Federal government regulations should not control a states' decision whether to grant a college or university permission to operate within that state.

Madam Chair, I have heard from numerous institutions across Alabama regarding these challenges. Please allow me to submit a letter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from the president of Spring Hill College, which is located in my home state of Alabama, for support of H.R. 2117. This letter explains how the Department's intrusive regulations are hampering growth of Spring Hill College. The letter also notes that the high cost associated with federal regulations stifle educational opportunities when those costs must be transferred to students. The federal government must not impede the work of our colleges and universities. When this happens, students are the ones most negatively affected.

Removing federal standards and granting states and institutions more flexibility is the key for expanding learning for all students. By allowing institutions to determine the educational needs of its students and by releasing states from these new mandates, we can move our system forward. I look forward to continued bipartisan support of the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act, and I encourage our friends in the Senate to give H.R. 2117 serious consideration in the coming months.

Hon. MARTHA ROBY,
House of Representatives, U.S. Congress, Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN ROBY: As I know you are aware, the House of Representatives has now scheduled H.R. 2117 to be discussed on the house floor this week. As president of one of the 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States, I urge you to lend your support to this important legislation.

H.R. 2117 addresses regulatory overreach by rescinding regulations on credit hour and state authorization, imposed by the Department of Education that became effective July 1, 2011. I, along with my fellow Jesuit college presidents, believe these regulations are intrusive and inappropriate.

Determining credit hour requirements has been and should be determined by the institution of higher education that awards credit for fulfilling academic work. National higher education accrediting agencies through long established peer review proc-

esses oversee how colleges and universities award college credit, and that is the way it should be. Spring Hill College, for example, is an accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

The current federal regulatory definition interferes with the integrity of awarding college credits with a one size fits all approach. This approach hinders course creativity and academic autonomy.

This regulation also impacts institutions that provide distance education courses by mandating unnecessary filings in states that result in more costs of time and money for many institutions. As I'm sure you recall, testimony given by several college presidents to the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary and Workforce Training pointed out that "unnecessary federal regulations will impose additional regulatory burdens on colleges and universities, which could lead to higher costs being passed down to low-income and disadvantaged students. H.R. 2117, the Protecting Academic Freedom in Higher Education Act, ensures that colleges and universities are able to focus their energy and resources on educating students. Congress and the Administration should focus on increasing educational opportunities for students and streamlining federal regulations that inhibit innovation in higher education," according to the subcommittee's summary. Therefore, I ask for your support of H.R. 2117.

I can also assure you that Spring Hill College continues to implement and seek further ways to hold down college costs while staying true to our mission to form leaders engaged in learning, faith, justice and service for life.

Thank you for all you do for our Alabama and for your support of Spring Hill College and our important mission. We look forward to welcoming you to our campus when your schedule permits.

May God Bless you.

Sincerely,

RICHARD P. SALMI, S.J.,
President, Spring Hill College.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to Kidney Action Day today March 1st and World Kidney Day on March 8, 2012. I would also like to recognize the month of March as National Kidney Month.

As one out of nine Americans suffers from kidney related disease, it is more prudent than ever to devote time, resources and compassion to this community. We must raise awareness and encourage screening in order to catch the disease early. There are 31 million Americans affected by kidney disease, and we should do everything in our power to make sure this number does not rise.

As a physician, I have seen the devastating effects of Chronic Kidney Disease, especially in the end stages. The two leading causes of this disease are high blood pressure and diabetes, both ailments which would spare the kidneys if patients were screened early and managed properly thereafter. As there is no cure for Chronic Kidney Disease, it is in our nation's best interest to help everyone gain

access to the resources needed in order to prevent this disease from progressing. Prevention is crucial.

For those who do have kidney diseases that progress, dialysis and transplant become the only options. The world's first outpatient dialysis facility opened 50 years ago in my district in Seattle, and although technologies continue to improve, the basic idea remains the same: Patients with end-stage renal disease are dependent on access to dialysis centers to survive. We must continue to fully fund the Medicare ESRD program, as well as advance kidney disease research at the NIDDK (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases).

Today, I join other members from both sides of the aisle to attend Kidney Action Day events on Capitol Hill. I encourage my fellow members to join me in helping to spread awareness about a cause that affects us all. I hope we will all stand together to fight Kidney Disease and support those living with the disease every day, as well as their families.

HONORING KYLE EWING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Ewing. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 714, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned 38 merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Kyle has served in many leadership roles within his unit, most notably as Senior Patrol Leader. Kyle has also contributed to his community by rehabilitating the parking lot and painting the community room of Dearborn Retirement Community in Dearborn, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Kyle Ewing for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, February 29, 2012, I was absent from the House Chamber. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 80.

CONDEMNING IRAN FOR ITS PERSECUTION OF YOUSEF NADARKHANI

SPEECH OF

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, Youcef Nadarkhani is a Christian pastor in Iran who at this very moment is under sentence of death for refusing to convert to Islam. As a matter of conscience, Pastor Youcef's story must be boldly told in this chamber and in every place where human rights are valued. His story reminds us of the blessings of liberty which we enjoy and sometimes take for granted. It reminds us that millions of people around the world live under brutal regimes that deny those same basic freedoms to their own people.

In 2009, Pastor Youcef protested a law that would forcibly impose Islam on his children. In September 2010 an Iranian court accused Pastor Youcef of the "crime" of abandoning the Islamic faith and condemned him to death by hanging unless he converts to Islam.

Mr. Speaker, this case represents just one in a long line of abuses the government of Iran has perpetrated against religious minorities. The intolerant, indeed barbaric, actions of the Iranian regime trample on the most basic of human rights—the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion. I condemn it in the strongest possible terms.

Iranian leaders must understand that if Iran is to be a legitimate member of the community of nations, if it seeks trade, if it seeks the benefit of economic engagement with the free world, if it wants to provide a firm and secure future for its citizens, it must protect and defend the rights of religious minorities. It must respect the religious liberties which its own constitution guarantees, and which it is obligated to respect as a signatory to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

So I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 556 condemning the government of Iran for its continued persecution, imprisonment, and sentencing of Pastor Youcef on the charge of apostasy. I am a cosponsor of this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING THE CARROLLTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Carrollton Area Chamber of Commerce and to congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1912, the Chamber has been an effective advocate for Carrollton and Carroll County. Now numbering 160 members, the Chamber remains committed to leading the way for economic development and promoting small businesses throughout the Carrollton region.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding the Carrollton Area Chamber of

Commerce for their accomplishments over the past 100 years and in looking forward to the years to come.

HONORING THE ARLINGTON CHAPTER OF THE LINKS INCORPORATED

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, for 45 years the Arlington Chapter of the Links Incorporated has been serving women, children and youth in the Alexandria and Arlington, Virginia communities.

Collectively, the chapter has been able to: Award over \$100,000 in scholarships to high school and college students;

Reach hundreds of students and parents at multi-cultural events to honor/celebrate their rich heritage;

Support student-run TV broadcasting and offer mentoring and character building workshops;

Support educational, health and sustainable food sources to international developing countries; and

Conduct awareness training to hundreds of community residents on obesity, diabetes, and the number one killer of women . . . heart disease.

I would like to commend the Arlington Links for providing resources to deliver sustainable and impactful programs, and for promoting civic, educational and cultural activities that instill excellence and improve the quality of life to thousands in the Northern Virginia community.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF SKILLED HOME HEALTH IN MEDICARE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, as we search for solutions to ensure that the Medicare system remains solvent for seniors and future beneficiaries, I believe it is vitally important to support cost-effective benefits that allow seniors to remain healthy and independent. Many of the treatments that were once offered exclusively in a hospital or physician setting can now be safely, effectively, affordably and efficiently provided in patients' homes by skilled clinicians. Home health care offers an intermediate level of care for patients who have difficulty accessing outpatient care or who need intensive assistance with an acute or chronic health problem.

Home health services are cost effective because they prevent costly hospitalizations, and serve as an alternative to expensive skilled nursing facilities. According to an October 2010 report in the Des Moines Register, seniors utilizing skilled home care cost taxpayers an average of \$607 per month, compared to an average of \$3,687 for seniors in nursing homes. Not only is home care less expensive, but studies also show that the vast majority of seniors prefer to live independently and remain in their home if possible.