

Colby, Wisconsin, who lost his life on Sunday, March 4, 2012 due to injuries sustained while fighting a fire at the Abbottsford Movie Theater.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Kampmeyer had qualities that many of us strive for all of our lives. He was a dedicated husband, father of three sons, public servant and friend to many. Since 2002, Jamison served his community with honor as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the City of Colby, eventually rising to the rank of Lieutenant. Jamison began his career with the Marathon County Sheriff's Department in 2004. Throughout his career as a Deputy Sheriff, he served in numerous capacities including Field Training Officer and SWAT team member. It is because of his extreme dedication to duty that he was posthumously promoted to Detective on March 5th, a position which he was due to assume next month.

The selfless sacrifice and exemplary service of Lieutenant Jamison Kampmeyer will not soon be forgotten. Through his actions, he has made his family, community, state and nation eternally proud. It is my humbling honor to pay tribute to him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Lieutenant Jamison Kampmeyer for the sacrifice he made for his community and fellow firefighters.

HONORING THE AMERICAN LEGION AND RETIRED ARMY CORPORAL LEONARD SANTANGELO

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today in recognition of our nation's veterans. The brave men and women of the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserves deserve our support, gratitude and prayers. We owe a great debt to these Americans for their service, for their courage, and for the sacrifice of their families.

I would also like to thank the organizations that support these veterans and their families when they come home. In particular, the American Legion will be celebrating its 93rd birthday this Friday, March 9, 2012. The local American Legion posts in my district, and around the country, play a vital role in bringing our community together. The American Legion supports not only our service members, but also our youth, with programs such as an amateur baseball league, scholarships for college-bound students and more.

One of the American Legion posts within my district, Post #145 in Douglasville, will be honoring a very special veteran this Friday—Pearl Harbor survivor Leonard Santangelo, who is one of only 17 survivors from Georgia. Leonard is a retired Army Corporal, and, at 92, is almost as old as the American Legion itself. He began his military service in 1941, just a few months prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Throughout his military career Leonard has received the American Defense Medal with one Bronze Star, the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He served his country through the end of World War II and continues even today by sharing his story with his community—adults and school children alike.

It gives me great honor and pleasure to recognize American Legion Post #145 and Ret.

Army Corporal Leonard Santangelo for their great service to our nation.

IN CELEBRATION OF EBBY HALLIDAY'S 101ST BIRTHDAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Ebby Halliday Acres as she celebrates her one hundred and first birthday tomorrow. Ebby is a remarkable woman who has made a lifelong impact on the Dallas Community through her leadership and philanthropic endeavors.

Ebby Halliday Realtors was founded in 1945 by Ebby and her beloved husband, Maurice Acers. Their company began with only fifty-two homes in North Dallas, and has since grown to become one of the largest privately owned residential real estate firms in the country. Ebby is a true entrepreneur that we can all admire. Her savvy business ventures have produced countless jobs, and her success is a true testament to what can be achieved with a positive attitude and hard working spirit. Ebby is a symbol of the American Dream, and through her company she has been able to help countless others achieve their own dreams of home ownership.

Ebby is also celebrated in the Dallas community for generously donating her time and efforts, as well as significant financial support, to numerous philanthropic endeavors. St. Paul Medical Center, United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, and the Communities Foundation of Texas are only three of the many nonprofit organizations and causes that have been personally touched by Ebby's love for her community and dedication to making the City of Dallas a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our heartiest congratulations to Ebby as she celebrates her one hundred and first birthday. May we all strive to match Ebby's passion for improving our communities and her unwavering commitment to success.

WAR ON WOMEN AND WOMEN'S HEALTH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY for working to organize Women's Health Wednesday, and also all of my colleagues of the Congressional Pro Choice Caucus, of which I am also a member, for standing up for women's health every single day.

I'm here, once again, to stand against the ongoing War on Women and Women's Health.

And let me just say how unfortunate it is that we continue to have to fight for what is and should be a basic health right and necessity for women. I am sure the American people would much rather have us focusing on ways to create jobs, especially for the long-term unemployed.

Yet here we are again. Defending women's right to access basic health care services. And yes, that includes contraception.

Much of the debate around access to contraception has centered on the so-called conscience clause. The ability of a religiously affiliated business to withhold access to contraception care for women based simply on an abstract moral objection.

An objection, mind you, that not only ignores the conscience or moral beliefs of the women these businesses employ, but completely disregards the real medical needs of these women.

And let me say, as I have before, that as a former devout practicing Catholic I fully understand and respect the Church's doctrine on contraception, even though I disagree with it.

But the health care decisions a woman makes should and must be between her and her doctor. And as I have always said, the government has no place inserting itself between the medical decisions a woman makes with her doctor. Period.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to recognize and highlight those women who are especially impacted by the attempts of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, as well as some religious leaders, to restrict access to vital contraception coverage.

Those who often get lost in the debate around this issue. Although I believe that women's health care decisions should not continue to be unfairly politicized.

We know the benefits of birth control for women and their families. We know how planned pregnancy and spacing children improves the quality of life and the outlook for the children and the whole family.

And we know that is also improves the health of the woman.

Often, however, we do not hear from the women for whom birth control may literally mean the difference between life and death.

I'd like to share the story of a woman named Sally who is from my district in California. She is a working mother who could not afford to have more children. After numerous miscarriages, she relied on birth control to allow her body to heal properly before becoming pregnant again. After a couple of years of taking this medication, her body healed sufficiently to allow her to finally have a viable pregnancy.

Another young woman from California has polycystic ovarian syndrome and uses birth control to regulate her hormones.

She was prescribed the medication after her gynecologist had to scrape dozens of precancerous cysts from her uterus. According to her gynecologist, had another 6 months passed, this young woman would have developed full blown cancer.

And another young woman who, after having a very difficult first pregnancy and being diagnosed with a serious heart condition, was told by her doctor that if she were to become pregnant again, it could cost her life and the life of her unborn child. And so she depends, in part, on contraception to not only to preserve her life, but to be there to raise her son.

And these are just a few of the thousands of stories from women across the country who use contraception for many many medical reasons.

Two years after the passage of the Affordable Care Act we are beginning to see true reforms in our health care system that expands access to vital preventative health services.

We must protect these gains, instead of working against them.

It is time to stop this War on Women and Women's Health Care.

IN HONOR OF INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate International Women's Day and the remarkable achievements of women around the world.

I have always used my voice and vote to support foreign policies and assistance to promote equality for women and girls in agriculture, education, the workforce, politics, and beyond. To be sure, the funding is never enough to meet the need. But with minimal resources and relentless grassroots and grassroots advocacy, women the world over are bending the narrative of our times towards gender equality. While this is happening in all corners of the globe, I want to highlight the tremendous gains the women and girls of Latin America have made in recent years.

Not too long ago, women were just 20% of the Latin American labor market. But in the last 50 years, that figure has doubled and today, women are roughly 40% of the region's workforce. These professional gains have a powerful ripple effect, particularly in political participation where women now make up 22% of Latin American legislatures, which surpasses the global average of 18.6%. Clearly, women in Latin America are a force to be reckoned with. And that's a cause to celebrate!

But while these gains are significant, this is no time to sit back on our laurels. There is still much more to be done to sustain this important tide of momentum in Latin America, and also help to propel a similar groundswell in other parts of the world where women still struggle for basic rights and equality. We must continue to fight for policies and programs that promote equal access to opportunity for women and girls. So, today and every day, let us do all that we can to make gender inequality a thing of history and gender equality a reality of the future.

JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS
STARTUPS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3606) to increase American job creation and economic growth by improving access to the public capital markets for emerging growth companies:

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my support for the efforts my colleagues have made this week to improve the regulatory environment for growing small businesses across our nation. This is important work that should continue without delay.

As we move forward though, there is a policy I am opposed to in the underlying bill that

I hope can be addressed either in the Senate or in Conference. Specifically, I am concerned that in this legislation, Congress sets a perilous precedent by establishing an accounting standard through legislation. While I am not opposed to this bill today, in part because I appreciate the work that has already been done to address this issue, there is still more to do to fully correct the problem I see.

As a CPA and the former Chairman of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, I am concerned about the encroachment this bill makes on the independence of the Financial Accounting Standards Board or FASB. FASB is an independent, private sector organization which establishes the standards of financial accounting that govern the preparation of financial reports by non-governmental entities.

The law has long recognized the need for an independent body, unencumbered by political or business affiliations, to arbitrate the complex accounting questions that arise in our modern economy. FASB functions as a rule maker that sits above the fray, so that public companies, investors, analysts, and government officials can all rely on the integrity and accuracy of financial statements. FASB's independence from businesses and governments alike is central to their ability to balance the competing interests of all stakeholders and generate standards that everyone can have confidence in.

Today's bill, H.R. 3606, takes a dangerous step away from this autonomy and towards a FASB that is held captive by the political and parochial interests of Congress. This legislation will interpose the views of Congress between FASB and the individuals and companies who rely on FASB's independence and judgment.

While I am strongly in favor of lifting regulatory burdens on our nations businesses, small and large alike, Congress should not direct when particular accounting standards are applicable to emerging growth companies. Replacing the careful, inclusive, and deliberative judgments of FASB with the inexperienced opinions of Congress could result in a standard that does not meet the competing needs of all market participants. Investors and analysts rely on the information in financial reports to fairly evaluate the firms they seek to invest in; FASB is the appropriate body to balance their need for information against the concerns of small business owners with the cost of complying with reporting requirements.

I am encouraged that the Chairman, Ranking Member, and sponsor of this legislation have already met with representatives from accounting profession and made good faith efforts to address my concerns. However, there is still work to be done to improve this bill. I hope that as similar legislation is considered in the Senate and if the two houses meet in a conference committee, my colleagues will take a close look at the consequences of this policy and take another step back from this slippery slope.

While many might argue that Congress ought to be able to set accounting standards, accountants are universally opposed to this idea. For those of us who spend our lives dealing with Congress's handiwork in the tax code, we see a grim glimpse of the future if Congress were to stand in for the independent accounting standards bodies. As I often tell my constituents, if you like the tax code, you

will love financial statements when Congress writes the accounting rules.

The value of good and effective accounting standards cannot be overstated; they are the yardstick of the marketplace. Good standards are essential to a well functioning economy because they provide a consistent framework for the meaningful evaluation of widely disparate entities. Without them, it is impossible to hold an accurate understanding of the financial position of a firm, an industry, or the wider economy.

Almost 80 years ago, Congress had the wisdom to establish an independent body to develop those standards so that accounting was never influenced by politics. Today, as more Americans than ever are active participants in financial markets, the need for a trusted, independent arbiter of public accounting standards has never been more important.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve this legislation and to further strengthen the independent process for writing financial accounting standards in the future.

PROTECTING THE HEALTH SUPPLEMENT INDUSTRY FROM BURDENSOME REGULATIONS

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to voice my concerns about recent FDA draft guidelines impacting the health supplement industry.

Each year millions of Americans choose to take vitamins and supplements. These supplements are regulated under law and represent just one way consumers can make informed decisions about their healthcare.

In July 2011 the Food and Drug Administration issued guidelines relating to new dietary ingredients or NDIs. These guidelines were aimed at ensuring the safety of ingredients contained in dietary supplements. While the FDA is responsible for the safety of supplements and the general public, I am concerned this regulation will create unnecessary paperwork and ultimately cost valuable jobs.

The FDA received over 146,000 pages of comments from the public on the guidelines and it is my hope they will take these into serious consideration as they draft a final guidance.

In February 2011 President Obama stated in a speech before the United States Chamber of Commerce that if there are rules and regulations, "... needlessly stifling job creation and economic growth, we will fix them. Already we're dramatically cutting down on the paperwork that saddles businesses with huge administrative costs."

Instead the Administration continues to promulgate burdensome regulations like the New Dietary Ingredient guideline that go beyond the original Congressional intent and will ultimately make it more difficult for companies to operate.