

Mr. Speaker, let me join my fellow brethren and a very grateful nation as we celebrate during National Black History Month, the 200th Anniversary of Boyer Lodge No. 1, the first established Lodge of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Let me congratulate and recognize Worshipful Master Carlo Smith-Ramsay, leader of Boyer Lodge No. 1 and our 55th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, Most Worshipful Reverend Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, 33°, EdD, DMin, MBA, MDiv.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF MAXIM INTEGRATED PRODUCTS' FARMERS BRANCH CAMPUS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the grand opening of Maxim Integrated Products Inc.'s new campus in Farmers Branch, Texas on March 23, 2012.

As a semiconductor company headquartered in Silicon Valley, California, Maxim's presence in North Texas began in 2001 when it acquired Dallas Semiconductor. Maxim is an impressive Fortune 1000 business with annual revenues of \$2.5 billion and approximately 9,300 employees worldwide, of which nearly 1,400 operate in Texas. The Farmers Branch campus will employ 800 people and is Maxim's second-largest site in the United States. It is the centerpiece for the design of integrated circuits and engineering as well as business management functions such as finance, marketing and customer service.

The 18.5-acre campus will be home to the 138,000 square-foot, employee-named Lone Star Building. The Lone Star Building will house 528 employees with the potential to accommodate a total of 650 people. The building is unique and features state-of-the-art, energy-efficient technology that includes automated lighting and control systems to reduce energy consumption by 37 percent. It also enjoys double-paned insulated windows with low e-coating, a chilled water air conditioning system and a roof that reflects heat.

Maxim has been active in the community by sponsoring the October 2011 Dallas Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure," with 80 employees participating. Through proactive environmental efforts, the site also recycled more than 90 tons of materials in 2010, including glass, cardboard, paper, metal, plastic and batteries.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Maxim Integrated Products on the grand opening of its Farmers Branch campus. I am proud to represent Farmers Branch, and I am grateful for the hundreds of jobs the company provides to the North Texas community.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chair, ObamaCare is unconstitutional and must be repealed in its entirety. That is why I voted for the full repeal of the President's nationalized healthcare bill, including the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). I have also introduced legislation to defund the individual mandate provision of ObamaCare. Although I fully support the repeal of IPAB and have cosponsored legislation to repeal it (H.R. 452), I cannot support final passage of H.R. 5 because the bill includes provisions that I believe violate States' rights and the 10th Amendment. As a strict constitutionalist and a fierce defender of States' rights, I cannot accept replacing one unconstitutional law with another.

H.R. 5 imposes a Federal medical liability cap on the States. In effect, this allows the Federal Government to overrule the State governments that have decided to prohibit liability caps. Five States already have constitutional prohibitions on liability caps. I believe that H.R. 5 will supersede these State constitutions and override the will of those legislatures. I myself believe in medical liability caps, like we have in Texas; however, if another State's voters do not want such reform, that is their decision to make. And, their doctors are welcome to keep coming to Texas.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SERGEANT TOM BERGREN OF THE SAINT PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sergeant Tom Bergren of the Saint Paul Police Department, and his retirement after 32 dedicated years of service.

Sergeant Bergren represents the finest example of a dedicated community law enforcement professional. His interest in public safety began early. As a child, he would visit his grandparents' home in Saint Paul to pick up local calls on the police scanners, longing to be the responder on the other end. His career formally began in Circle Pines, Minnesota, when in 1976 at 19 years old, he became a reserve officer. After 3 years of service to the residents of Circle Pines as a reserve officer, and later as a full time community-service officer, he entered the Saint Paul Police Academy.

After graduation, Sergeant Bergren served a number of different roles in the Saint Paul Police Department, including time as an officer in

the K-9 unit and as an investigator in auto theft. Bergie, as he became known by those close to him, became a homicide investigator in 2004, ultimately this would be the role that would shape his career. This job demands the utmost dedication, and he not only exceeded these expectations, but inspired those he worked with to do so as well. It was this unrelenting dedication that would help him solve the biggest case of his career.

In 2007, a triple homicide took place in the North End Neighborhood of Saint Paul. Over 4 long years and hundreds of interviews, Sergeant Bergren tirelessly sought to bring closure to the families and bring the assailants to justice. It was this dedication that not only saw the conviction of the two perpetrators, but created a bond between Bergren and families of the victims.

Sergeant Tom Bergren's unparalleled commitment to serving the public has earned him many awards through the years. In 2007, he earned the Detective of the Year award from the Saint Paul Police Department, and just recently, he received a fourth Medal of Commendation from the city.

On his desk sits a sign from the mother of one of the victims of the 2007 homicide, which states "never, never, never give up." On behalf of myself and all of the residents of Saint Paul, I want to thank Sergeant Tom Bergren for never giving up in his efforts to protect and serve the public.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Sergeant Tom Bergren's 32 years of valiant and dedicated service, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

H.R. 5 PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice the concerns raised by my constituents regarding the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

Though I voted against H.R. 5, the Protecting Access to Healthcare Act, I, too, have concerns about an unelected, unaccountable board tasked with creating cost-cutting plans if Medicare spending exceeds certain levels. Though the Board is prohibited by law from cutting beneficiary policies, and the Congressional Budget Office predicts that a cost-cutting plan will not be triggered during this budget cycle, I urge my House colleagues to revisit this issue. We, as elected representatives of the people, have a Constitutional responsibility to ensure the voices of our constituencies are heard when it comes to the future of Medicare. Walling off those decisions, in order to expedite cost cutting efforts that lack sufficient popular support, is the surest way to a budgetary debacle.

We must preserve access to quality care, while containing costs, but we also must ensure an opportunity for the voice of the people to be heard and their needs to be taken into consideration.

CELEBRATING PASTOR EDWARD L. BRANCH AND THE CONGREGATION OF THIRD NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Edward L. Branch and the congregation of Third New Hope Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan on the occasion of its 56th anniversary.

Over 50 years ago, Deacon John Cunningham and residents of Detroit came together in the fellowship of Christ to carry out the work of the Lord. Under its first leader, Pastor John L. Davis, the congregation found its first home on Carpenter Street in Detroit. As a testament to Pastor Davis' focus on missionary and outreach programs which guided lost souls, the congregation prospered and grew so extensively that Third New Hope had to move to a bigger space on Russell Street.

Following the departure of Pastor Davis in 1961, Third New Hope came under the ministry of Reverend G.P. Chapman. Reverend Chapman led the congregation with great passion, kindness and a strong conviction of faith. As a true servant to the Lord and his community, he was known as a compassionate man that, "would give you the shirt off his back." Under his guide, Third New Hope created a youth choir, usher board, nurses guild, and more social outreach programs. Again, in recognition of the strong spiritual bond of the congregation to its community, Third New Hope saw its congregation expand and had to find a new, larger home on Linwood Street.

In 1977, after 16 years of service, Reverend Chapman retired and the call to lead Third New Hope was heeded by Pastor Edward L. Branch. A young, energetic and spiritually inspired leader, Pastor Branch placed renewed emphasis on the fellowship of the congregation and serving the needs of the community. Under his tenure, the congregation expanded its outreach with the Heritage Center for African American Religious Studies, Men's and Women's Ministry, Marriage Ministry and Pastoral Care. In addition to moving to its current site on Plymouth Road in Detroit, Pastor Branch led a campaign to raise money for a community center, paved three parking lots near the church, established The Watchmen (a ministry of men who are aimed at protecting the community from harm) and expanded the church to a second location, the Third New Hope West Campus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the accomplishments of the congregation of Third New Hope Baptist Church in Detroit. Today, Third New Hope's two locations provide Metro-Detroit residents with spiritual guidance and vital social services. Over its 56-year history, the Church and its congregation's profound impact have been felt across our communities. I know that Third New Hope will continue to prosper under the leadership of Pastor Branch and I wish him and the congregation many more years of vibrant spiritual fellowship in Christ and service to the community.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chair, I rise today to recuse myself from consideration of H.R. 5, the Protecting Access to Healthcare, PATH, Act.

I have long supported medical liability reform as a way to control rising health care costs and save taxpayer money. I also have deep concerns regarding the establishment of the Independent Payment Advisory Board and the potential it has to restrict access to health care services. However, because of my holdings in at least two corporations that would benefit directly if H.R. 5 is enacted into law, I have concerns that my involvement could present a conflict with my private economic affairs. While my participation in legislative consideration of H.R. 5 would not appear to violate current House Rules and established precedent, I want to dispel any appearance of conflict. I therefore recuse myself from consideration of this legislation.

SUPPORT OF H. RES. 568

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 568, a bipartisan resolution reaffirming U.S. resolve to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability. I co-sponsored this resolution because of the critical importance to U.S. national security and regional stability to deny Iranian nuclear weapon capability through every diplomatic tool and pressure to avoid resorting to military force.

Reports of progress in Iran's nuclear program have been disconcerting. The November 2011 International Atomic Energy Agency report presented "serious concerns regarding possible military dimensions to Iran's nuclear programme" and asserted that "Iran has carried out activities relevant to the development of a nuclear device."

There would be devastating consequences for a nation that has threatened Israel's existence and poses significant security threats to its neighbors to acquire nuclear weapons. As President Obama said during his January 24, 2012 State of the Union Address, "Let there be no doubt: America is determined to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon."

Since I entered Congress in 2007, I have stood firmly against nuclear proliferation to Iran. In 2010, I co-sponsored and supported through passage the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act, which enacted sanctions against companies

investing in Iran's energy sector. In addition, I am a cosponsor of legislation to expand sanctions against Iran, the Iran Threat Reduction Act (H.R. 1905).

It has been under President Obama's leadership and reinvigorated cooperation with allies and other nations that has ramped up the pressure to deny Iran weapons capability. President Obama entered office with the international effort to challenge Iran divided and in shambles. Immediately, the President rallied the international community to apply pressure in conjunction with the United States as a diplomatic force multiplier. Russia and China joined in a 2010 the U.N. Security Council comprehensive sanctions effort. These sanctions slowed the Iranian nuclear program and have levied damaging effects on the Iranian economy. The coalition held as we expanded a sanctions offensive against Iran's Central Bank and their oil exports.

These efforts make it clear that Iran must change its recent behavior and instead fulfill its obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. The longer it takes Iran to change its course, the further cut-off it will grow diplomatically and the more strangled its economy will become. Now we must expand these efforts to increase sanctions, further isolate Iran, and explore every outlet to undermine the Iranian regime politically and seek real change in that country's leadership and political direction.

This resolution communicates Congressional unity with the Administration and determination to the international community to maximize every diplomatic and economic tool available to pressure and deny Iran nuclear weapon capability. To be clear, other options—such as the use of United States military force against Iran—require the deliberate and thoughtful consideration of this Congress, a power which I believe this resolution clearly preserves. I am co-sponsoring this resolution to continue our nation's effective, ratcheting pressure to force Iran on a new path and to avoid a subsequent request from the Administration some day to authorize the use of military force against Iran.

HONORING LONG-TIME LOS ANGELES RESIDENT AND DEDICATED COMMUNITY SERVANT: MS. IRENE PORTILLO

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a great loss to our community, Ms. Irene Portillo, who passed away on March 13, 2012, after a valiant battle with cancer. My heart goes out to her two children, Desiree Portillo Rabinov and Darren Rae Portillo; her son-in-law, Paul Rabinov; her grandchildren Paloma Irene and David Darren Rabinov; her brothers Henry Jr., Armando, Mario and Arturo Esparza; her nieces and nephews; and all of her family and friends.

Irene was an extraordinary citizen of the city and county of Los Angeles. Born and raised in East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights, she led a life dedicated to community service and improving the lives of her fellow Angelinos.