

University, I can attest to the pride held by both communities.

Dubbed the “Golfer of the Millennium,” Jack Nicklaus is world renowned for his winning record of 118 professional golf tournaments and an unsurpassed 18 professional major-championship titles. However, it is his accomplishments off the course that I recognize today. In 2005, Jack Nicklaus and his wife Barbara formed the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation, which provides support for activities that advance and enhance the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of childhood diseases and disorders. To date, Jack and Barbara have raised over \$15 million in support of pediatric health care programs through their foundation. In addition, as a trustee of The First Tee program, Jack provides positive life values and promotes healthy choices through the game of golf to young people who would normally not have access to the game.

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to attend the Legends Luncheon this week, which advances pediatric care through the Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation alliance. As a fellow Ohio State Buckeye, it is truly my honor to recognize such a great role model, Jack Nicklaus.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
BRITNEY WOLFORD ON HER
OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO AT-
TEND THE UNITED STATES AIR
FORCE ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding student from Ohio’s Fifth Congressional District. I am pleased to announce that Brittney Wolford of Woodville, Ohio has been offered an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Brittney’s offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet Class of 2016. Attending one of our Nation’s military academies not only offers the opportunity to serve our country but also guarantees a world-class education, while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Brittney brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2016. While attending Woodmore High School in Elmore, Ohio, Brittney was a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Teen Advisory Group. Brittney was also president of Woodmore’s chapter of the National Honor Society her senior year.

Throughout high school, Brittney was a member of her school’s soccer and basketball teams; earned varsity letters in both sports, as well as being nominated team captain in both sports her junior and senior years. In addition, Brittney volunteered her time to her community and brought pride to her country by singing the national anthem at sporting and local veteran events. I am confident that Brittney will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brittney Wolford on the offer of her appointment to the United States Air Force Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Brittney will excel during her career at the Air Force Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the Nation.

PROTECTING AMERICAN BABIES
FROM THE SCOURGE OF THE RE-
PUBLICAN PLUTOCRACY

HON. SHELIA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening because this House Majority seeks to play Freddy Krueger with our social safety net, attacking the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, or food stamps, and ripping families to shreds, under the guise of budget cutting.

This program is our most important anti-hunger program, with over 46 million Americans in more than 21 million households relying on it to help feed themselves and their families.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP is the cornerstone of the Nation’s nutrition assistance safety net. SNAP touches the lives of over one in seven Americans. Indeed you could say that SNAP saves lives.

Everyone’s life is not as simple as some on the other side would have us believe—every person who is homeless cannot be fixed with magic dust and self-help policy prescriptions. Life is complicated and fraught with danger and uncertainty.

Lucky are many of us who go home to warm shelter, food, and family. There, but for the grace of God go I.

SNAP benefits are available to most people who meet the financial requirements, and the program serves a broad spectrum of low income people. In Fiscal Year 2010, SNAP provided about \$5.4 billion dollars in food benefits to a monthly average of over 3.6 million people in Texas.

The program served 55 percent of those eligible for benefits in Texas in 2008. SNAP also has an economic multiplier effect with every \$5 in new SNAP benefits generating as much as \$9 in total economic activity.

It is a proven fact Mr. Speaker that people who receive SNAP benefits put them to almost immediate use. SNAP beneficiaries are not converting their benefits into convertible bonds or stock options. They spend and help the economy along the way.

The Ryan Republican Budget would force SNAP into an inadequate State-by-State block program. Such a breakdown would make SNAP static and unable to react to a changing economy. This is not an example of a sensible ordering of the fiscal priorities.

When times are tough, SNAP expands to bring assistance where needed. And as the economy improves, SNAP shrinks in size as families are better able to provide for themselves. A static program would not be able to react to such economic changes and Americans would suffer.

The Republican Budget also is asking for SNAP recipients’ aid to be ‘contingent on work or job training.’ SNAP does help many people who are unemployed or underemployed to make ends meet. Let’s not make our fiscal and economic policies punitive towards the people who need us most.

But it also helps families with children, the elderly and the disabled. SNAP was created to respond to the economic climate and help the most vulnerable among us, including but not limited to those that have lost their job, avoid hunger.

In my district, the Texas 18th, more than 190,000 people live below the poverty line. Additionally, a study conducted in August 2011 by the Food Research and Action Center ranked the 18th Congressional District as having the 33rd highest rate of food hardship in households with children.

According to the Texas Food Bank Network and Baylor University’s Texas Hunger Initiative, 700,000 families in Harris County, Texas struggle to provide enough food for their families.

In 2010, there were 46.2 million Americans living in poverty nationwide. According to the 2010 Federal poverty threshold, determined by the U.S. Census, a family of four is considered impoverished if they are living on less than \$22,314 per year.

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that there are currently 5.6 million Texans living in poverty, 2.2 million of them children, and that 17.4 percent of households in the State struggle with food insecurity.

I am committed to preserving essential programs aimed at combating poverty, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, that fed 3.9 million residents of Texas in April 2011, or the Women, Infants, and Children, WIC, Program that provides nutritious food to more than 990,000 mothers and children in my home State.

SNAP kept more than 5 million people out of poverty in 2010 in addition to helping feed millions more who were already below the poverty line. About three-quarters of the families aided by the program have children. More than a quarter of the families include seniors or people with disabilities.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, provides benefits to low-income, eligible households on an electronic benefit transfer, EBT, card; benefits can then be exchanged for foods at authorized retailers. SNAP reaches a large share of low-income households. In November 2011, there were 46 million persons in 22 million households benefiting from SNAP.

Federal SNAP law provides two basic pathways for financial eligibility to the program:

(1) meeting federal eligibility requirements, or (2) being automatically or “categorically” eligible for SNAP based on being eligible for or receiving benefits from other specified low-income assistance programs. Categorical eligibility eliminated the requirement that households who already met financial eligibility rules in one specified low-income program go through another financial eligibility determination in SNAP.

In its traditional form, categorical eligibility conveys SNAP eligibility through the receipt of cash assistance from Supplemental Security Income, SSI, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF, block grant, or State-run General Assistance, GA, programs.

However, since the 1996 welfare reform law, States have been able to expand categorical eligibility beyond its traditional bounds. That law created TANF to replace the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, AFDC, program, which was a traditional cash assistance program. TANF is a broad-purpose block grant that finances a wide range of social and human services.

TANF gives States flexibility in meeting its goals, resulting in a wide variation of benefits and services offered among the States. SNAP allows States to convey categorical eligibility based on receipt of a TANF "benefit," not just TANF cash welfare. This provides States with the ability to convey categorical eligibility based on a wide range of benefits and services. TANF benefits other than cash assistance typically are available to a broader range of households and at higher levels of income than are TANF cash assistance benefits.

In total, 43 jurisdictions have implemented what the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, has called "broad-based" categorical eligibility. These jurisdictions generally make all households with incomes below a State-determined income threshold eligible for SNAP. States do this by providing households with a low-cost TANF-funded benefit or service such as a brochure or referral to an "800" number telephone hotline.

There are varying income eligibility thresholds within States that convey "broad-based" categorical eligibility, though no State has a gross income limit above 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. In all but three of these jurisdictions, there is no asset test required for SNAP eligibility. Categorically eligible families bypass the regular SNAP asset limits.

However, their net incomes (income after deductions for expenses) must still be low enough to qualify for a SNAP benefit. That is, it is possible to be categorically eligible for SNAP but have net income too high to actually receive a benefit. The exception to this is one- or two-person households that would still receive the minimum benefit.

During the decade of the 2000s, there were a number of proposals to restrict categorical eligibility based on receipt of TANF benefits. These proposals would have limited TANF-based categorical assistance to households receiving TANF-funded cash assistance. The proposal was made by the Bush Administration in its farm bill proposals and several budget submissions. It passed the House in a budget reconciliation bill in 2005 but was not part of that year's final reconciliation package, the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171).

Mr. Speaker, let's not punish those in need any longer! Help the poor—don't show the dark side of America.

RECOGNIZING EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Equal Pay Day and to stress my commitment to closing the wage gap between men and women once and for all. Women are critical to our Nation's eco-

nomical success and it is essential for us to redouble our efforts to end discriminatory practices in the workplace. Although many positive steps have been taken and much change has been effectuated, there is much more that can be and should be done.

On this day, let us give attention to how the wage gap affects women, families and the economy. Today, more than ever, women are equal, if not primary, income earners in most American families. Yet women in our economy and our work force are still earning just 77 cents on every dollar paid to men. Couple the gender gap with statistics on race and it is even worse. African American women earn a mere 64 cents on the dollar, while Hispanic women receive an appalling 56 cents on the dollar compared to men. In states across the country, women are collectively losing tens of billions of dollars annually—money that could alleviate the financial strain countless families are facing in this tough economy.

We must put an end to discriminatory practices in the workforce once and for all. Expanding economic opportunities for women is critical to building an economy that restores security for middle class families. We must promote such an economy by encouraging the advancement of women in the workforce and by rewarding their efforts equally. We must ensure that when a woman seeks higher employment she is able to attain it without being discriminated against based on her gender and more importantly that she receive equal pay for equal work. We must ensure that equal pay and equal opportunity go hand in hand with hard work in the twenty-first century.

In the 1950's a sole income earner, historically a man, could support an entire family. Those days are long past, not ever to return. We are living in an era where dual incomes are not a luxury, but rather the necessary condition to sustain a middle class status.

I applaud President Obama's commitment to ensuring that women are treated equally in the workforce and paid fairly for their work. From signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, to creating the National Equal Pay Task Force, President Obama has fought for equality for women in the workforce, and there is no reason why this Congress should not be equally committed to the cause of pay equality for women.

In a time where women's labor force participation has increased dramatically and where families are becoming increasingly reliant on women's incomes due to the rise of living costs, it makes no sense that pay disparities between men and women still persist. Women should not have to face greater risks for income insecurity than men. The reality is that over the course of her lifetime, these pay discrepancies can cost a woman and her family up to hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost wages, reduced pensions, and reduced Social Security benefits. I call this "gender theft." The Republican majority apparently believe this is an acceptable state of affairs.

The statistics are very clear; we cannot have a vibrant society if women are not doing well. The success of American women is critical for the success of American families and the American economy. Consequently, when women face barriers to participation in the workplace and marketplace, it affects all Americans.

Unfortunately, rather than concentrating on eliminating such discrepancies and ensuring

equality, the Republican majority has instead been fixated on limiting women's rights and freedoms. This war on women is hurtful and destructive, wastes time, and makes no economic sense. It makes America weaker, not stronger. It certainly does not reflect a kinder and gentler America.

Mr. Speaker, on this day—Equal Pay Day—let us resolve to honor women for the work they do to support and sustain their families. Let us start by paying women equally for the honorable work they do. It is through our hard work to ensure equal treatment of all women in the workforce, marketplace, and society as a whole that we can resoundingly voice our commitment to support American women and families.

SPORTSMEN'S HERITAGE ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4089) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing and shooting:

Mr. BOREN. Madam Chair, as a Congressman serving on the House Committee on Natural Resources and the past Co-Chairman of the bipartisan Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, I support America's sportsmen and the acclaimed activities of hunting and recreational fishing and shooting through the enactment of H.R. 4089.

H.R. 4089 is essential to recognizing the importance of and facilitating the expansion and enhancement of hunting and recreational fishing and shooting. It is a compilation of four different bills (H.R. 2834, H.R. 3440, H.R. 991 and H.R. 1558) that promote and advance these time-honored traditions. The Sportsmen's Heritage Act reaffirms that hunting and recreational fishing and shooting are important activities by providing a sound legislative foundation for the advancement of America's sporting heritage.

Seventy-five years ago, the conservation community, including hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and related industries, supported the use of funds from an excise tax on firearms and ammunition—along with the dedicated revenue from hunting and fishing licenses—to be used exclusively by state fish and wildlife agencies to professionally manage fish and wildlife populations and provide access for sportsmen and the larger public to enjoy the benefits of this management. This funding mechanism was eventually expanded to include the fishing and boating communities as well as the archery community. Accordingly, these groups produced the American System of Conservation Funding: a unique "user pays—public benefits" approach. This user-pays funding strategy has produced numerous public benefits including: abundant fish and wildlife populations, access to public lands and clean waters, improved fish and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, wetland protection and associated water filtration and flood retention functions, improved soil and water conservation, shooting ranges and boating access facilities that are available for the