

FISMA, in its current form, places too great an emphasis on compliance over outcomes.

The bill requires OMB to oversee agency policies and develop information security protections consistent with standards issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and OMB would have to report to Congress annually on agency compliance.

Additionally, each agency would be required to provide protections that are commensurate with the risks posed to the security of the agency's information. The head of each agency would be required to appoint a Chief Information Security Officer responsible for developing and implementing an information security program and the bill mandates that each agency develop and implement an information security program that is approved by OMB.

Mr. Speaker, as a leading employer in the U.S., the federal government has a special responsibility to ensure that the electronic points of entry it maintains with Americans and with the world are protected from unauthorized access and disruption.

The common sense and necessary legislation before us today is an important step in that direction. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, this week, we joined people in the State of Israel and her many friends around the world in celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut—the independence from British mandatory rule and the establishment of the State of Israel.

The United States and Israel have shared a special bond since the establishment of the Jewish State in 1948. The United States, under the leadership of then-President Truman, was the first country to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its founding. Today, the United States and Israel continue to share a commitment to democracy, the rule of law, the freedoms of religion and speech, as well as respect for human rights. The United States and Israel also share a desire for peace and stability.

Our countries cooperate closely on intelligence issues, partnering on the development of new technology to promote the security and safety of our citizens. Bilateral ties in trade were codified in the 1985 U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement. Today, the American and Israeli governments and businesses are working together to develop and promote new energy solutions.

The Jewish people paid a heavy price for security and independence. Nearly 23,000 men and women have been killed defending Israel since the first Jewish settlers left the secure walls of Jerusalem in 1860. Since the end of the War of Independence, nearly 2,500 people have been killed by terror attacks in Israel, including 14 in the past year.

Today, despite disturbing political instability in the region, Israel stands strong. She is among the safest countries in the world, her economy is sound, life expectancy there is among the highest in the world, and more Israelis earn advanced degrees than most

other nations. And, at a time when our own country is challenged by polarizing politics, an astounding 88 percent of Israelis say they are proud to be Israeli.

I want to extend my best wishes to the people of Israel as we celebrate Israel's extraordinary friendship and honor her achievements over the past 64 years.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA VERNIA IN TEXAS, HAROLD SCHOTT

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retiring Mayor of the City of La Vernia in Texas, Harold Schott. He was elected Mayor of the City of La Vernia in May 2008 and ends his tenure in May 2012. His tireless efforts have improved the community and served to better the development and progress of the City of La Vernia.

Mr. Schott was born in Castroville, Texas and grew up in San Antonio, Texas where he graduated from the Central Catholic High School. At twenty-five years old, he joined the San Antonio Police Department in 1970. In his duration with the department, he was a Police Department Union Representative for his substation. After 33 years of dedication and service, he retired from the Police Department in 2003. His work with the City of La Vernia began in 1998 when he was elected to the La Vernia City Council and held his position as a council member for a decade. By May 2008, he was elected Mayor of the City of La Vernia. I had the pleasure of working with the Mayor on various projects, such as securing a \$500,000 earmark on a new water well and assistance for a grant that brought a new energy efficient roof for City Hall.

His work as Mayor led to a list of accomplishments that benefited the city and people of La Vernia, including new pumps and vault at Wood Creek water plant, TMRS Retirement plans for employees, and residential water meter replacement. Additionally, he increased safety and protections by reducing speed limits at the city limits and developed emergency response plans for water and wastewater systems. His actions were for the betterment of the community and commendable.

Along with serving the city, he sat on the Canyon Regional Water Authority Board of Trustees from 2004 through 2012. He has been married to his wife, Lucy, who has served as a U.S. Marshal for 17 years. The couple has two children and one grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Mr. Harold Schott, retiring Mayor of the City of La Vernia. His years of dedication and commitment to our community have truly impacted the quality of lives for the people of the city.

CARLOS DELACERDA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Carlos

DeLaCerde for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Carlos DeLaCerde is a 10th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Carlos DeLaCerde is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Carlos DeLaCerde for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING THE 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with a strong spirit of solidarity that I recognize the 64th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, as the world was working toward a brighter and less war-torn future, the Israeli people declared their independence from the British Mandate. The United States recognized the new State of Israel minutes after its birth and, ever since, our two nations have remained strong allies and profound friends.

During its 64 year history, the State of Israel has weathered persistent threats with a remarkable resolve. The nation has not only survived, but has prospered. While ensuring the security of her people, Israel has maintained a firm commitment to democracy. We in the United States are fortunate to have Israel as an unshakeable ally in the Middle East. On this anniversary of independence, we should reflect upon the endurance of that alliance and renew its promises for future generations.

I further recognize the importance of fostering our alliance with mutual cooperation. The second ten-year Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Israel, which was signed in 2007, has established a fruitful security agreement that has served both of our nations well. A later Memorandum in 2009 further strengthened our joint commitment to counter-terrorism by pledging our mutual assistance to stop the supply of arms to terrorist organizations. It is strategic landmarks like these that help support the lasting bond that we have established with the Israeli state and people.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the 64th anniversary of the State of Israel. I am proud of the historic relationship that the United States has with Israel and look forward to the future of our friendship.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,623,285,528,454.41. We've added \$4,996,408,479,541.33 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN HONOR OF THE EEOC RULING
THAT GENDER-IDENTITY DIS-
CRIMINATION BE COVERED BY
TITLE VII

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's decision that an employer who discriminates against an employee or applicant on the basis of gender-identity violates the Civil Rights Act. This decision is a massive step forward for transgender employment protection, a right that the transgender community has fought hard to ensure over the past decade.

As a result of this ruling, investigators at all 53 of the EEOC's district offices will now accept discrimination claims brought by transgender individuals. The EEOC's legal staff can also bring lawsuits against employers the agency determines have discriminated against transgender employees or job applicants. The decision will be binding on all federal agencies. This definitive ruling gives transgender Americans the certainty, security and reliable legal protection they deserve.

On June 25, 2008, I headed the first Congressional hearing on transgender discrimination. As I stated then, I feel strongly that a person's gender identity is an irrelevant criterion and should not play a role in his or her ability to get a job. The person best qualified to fill the role should get the job. This ruling from the EEOC ensures that transgender people across the country will be protected by federal law if they are denied a job or fired because of who they are or how they appear.

Given the incredibly high rate of employment discrimination facing transgender people, it is important to recognize all of the people who have struggled through discrimination and adversity to get this ruling passed.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the EEOC's decision and encourage Congress to seek further protections for transgender Americans and work to end all forms of discrimination.

CHESLE PARSON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chesle Parson for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Chesle Parson is a 7th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chesle Parson is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chesle Parson for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RIVERDALE WOMEN'S CLUB 60TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Riverdale Women's Club, located in the Borough of Riverdale, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 60th Anniversary.

The Riverdale Women's Club was founded in 1952 as a community service and social organization to provide community improvements, cultural enrichment and educational opportunities to the residents of Riverdale and surrounding municipalities.

The Riverdale Women's Club has made many significant contributions to their community throughout their long history.

Utilizing the many talents of group members, the Club crafts lap robes and afghans for local nursing homes and hospitals, as well as newborn baby hats for area maternity departments. In addition, the members of the Club sew sheets for local school nurses and make teddy bears to be used by local Police, Fire and Rescue for trauma victims.

During holiday seasons the Club collects food and provides food baskets to Morris County's neediest as well as making candy and cookies for local nursing homes. Throughout the year the members of the Club collect clothing and sanitary items to give to New Jersey's veterans' homes.

Every year the Women's Club fulfills their longstanding tradition of encouraging educational opportunities through the Marie S. Hagberg Scholarship, Adele Wasek Art Award and Helen Spengler Continuing Education Scholarships given to deserving students. They also sponsor Annual Academic Essay and Art Award Competitions.

In addition, the Club has participated in the establishment of the Riverdale Senior Citizen's Club, the Friends of Riverdale Library and the

Local 4-H Club. They were also instrumental in the foundation of the Children's Wellness Clinic and a number of additional health clinics in Riverdale.

Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the educational and social needs of the community while providing a gathering place for women, the Riverdale Women's Club has proved itself to be a pillar of the Borough of Riverdale. We are proud to have such a dedicated group here in Morris County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Riverdale Women's Club as they celebrate their Sixtieth Anniversary.

HONORING 100 YEARS OF
HADASSAH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, and to recognize its 100 years of service in our communities. As a lifetime Hadassah member, it is a great privilege to recognize the important work the organization continues to do, both in the United States and around the world.

Founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold, Hadassah has the extraordinary distinction of being the largest volunteer organization, as well as the largest women's organization, in the United States. A century later, Hadassah has maintained its commitment to Judaism, Zionism, and American ideals, promoting health care, education, youth institutions, volunteerism, and land reclamation in Israel, as well as Jewish and Zionist education programs, Zionist Youth programs, and health awareness programs in the United States. Hadassah remains a critical voice of the Jewish community, advocating for issues of importance to women and to American Jews.

The Hadassah Medical Organization operates state-of-the-art medical facilities in Israel, including the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center at Ein Kerem and the Hadassah University Hospital at Mount Scopus. Hadassah also maintains an extensive healthcare network including community healthcare programs, specialized outpatient clinics and services, and consultation clinics in the center of Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv. Hadassah's medical services continue to set the standard for health care in Israel, providing over 1 million people with hospital care each year.

Hadassah's critical services extend far beyond health care. The organization offers continuing education in fields such as nursing, medicine, business, and law, offering women in those professions the opportunity to join profession councils and to affiliate on a national level with other members who share the same vocation. Further, Hadassah College Jerusalem has, for over 35 years, been providing Academic and Associate degrees in a variety of subjects.

Within our own communities, Hadassah strengthens Jewish identity and support for Israel through community programs for both youth and adult members to foster community bonds, create volunteer opportunities, and develop Jewish leaders. Hadassah members organize and advocate on issues including hate