

base for the Michigan Education Association. As an Assistant Superintendent for the first Wayne County Intermediate School District, and then the modernized and retooled Wayne Regional Education Service Agency, Dan not only crafted the Michigan student aid formula section for education service agencies, but became the go-to person whenever any legislative bill or regulation even hinted at changing state education policy or practice for the county school district delivery system. His embedded in-depth knowledge base was beyond compare and unquestionably accurate.

Dan also had an innate ability to be able to know and foretell the inter-agency effects of legislation outside the education realm. He was the recognized expert on the complicated process of school consolidation and was Dan universally liked and admired in the corridors of the State Capitol of Michigan. He was courteous, knowing, and ever ready with a joke and generous in assisting young people new to the Capitol. Dan secured handwritten amendments, bill drafts and multiple documents and was often the first to recognize emerging, important legislative information.

Dan Manthe proudly represented the children of Wayne County, Michigan—all 34 districts, from Detroit to Ecorse, Hamtramck and Belleville. He was sought out by administrators and union members alike for his sage advice and deep expertise on how to accomplish various legislative feats. He tutored and fine-tuned the skills of a lineup of Michigan Department of Education state directors of legislation and school law who have gone on to become chiefs of staff for a Michigan governor and Speaker of the state House, a multi-district legislative consultant, and several Congressional and state legislative assistants.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Daniel R. Manthe, a great Michigan education leader as we offer our heartfelt condolences to Dan's family on his passing.

EVERETT MILLER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Everett Miller for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Everett Miller is an 11th grader at Standley Lake High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Everett Miller 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 Everett Miller 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.

MOTHERS' DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mothers' Day and to thank our nation's mothers, grandmothers, and aunts, as well as all the women who mentor and nurture future generations. On this holiday, I thank these incredible women by recommitting myself to the effort to preserve Medicare and to protect their health and wellbeing.

My mother was a true inspiration to me, and she taught me the importance of a solid work ethic and compassion for others in the community. She took on the challenge of raising two children by herself, which meant work during the day and school at night. Life certainly was not easy for her, but she always provided for my family and is one of the strongest women I have ever known.

Today, many families in my district and across the country are also coping with limited resources while demonstrating the same determination and compassion that my mother instilled in me. Many are seniors who cannot afford the exorbitant cost of treatments for chronic medical conditions and preventative care. Medicare program is a vital lifeline for so many and should be protected at all costs.

The proposed Republican plan to end Medicare as we know it would distribute vouchers for beneficiaries to purchase health insurance. Under the plan, the voucher would not grow as fast as health care costs, shifting the burden of the costs onto seniors. It would repeal the free preventive services benefit in Medicare, increasing seniors' out-of-pocket costs for preventive care by over \$110 million in 2012 alone.

The Republican plan would have a particularly damaging effect on women, who, on average, live longer than men, have lower incomes than men, and have more chronic health conditions than men—making Medicare even more vital to their wellbeing. 57 percent of women on Medicare live below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, compared to 45 percent of men. Additionally, 49 percent of women on Medicare have three or more chronic health conditions, compared to 38 percent of men.

As a representative of the 37th Congressional District of California, this issue is of particular importance to me. In California alone, there are nearly 2.7 million female Medicare beneficiaries, more than any other state in the country.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with these women—America's mothers and grandmothers—as I reaffirm my support of the Medicare program. I will not support legislation that balances our budget on the backs of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in this critical fight.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy Mothers' Day to all the mothers of the 37th district and across the country.

JESSE LUCERO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jesse Lucero for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jesse Lucero is an 11th 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 Jesse Lucero 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 Jesse Lucero 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.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage month and to a service organization from my district, the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) that provides crucial services to our community. This month gives us an opportunity to reflect and honor the Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) who have enriched our nation with their countless contributions to American history.

While generations of AAPIs have had profound impact on our nation and have achieved the American Dream, the AAPIs community is extremely diverse and some AAPIs have challenges and require assistance from federal programs to overcome obstacles in the journey to achieve the American Dream. Around the country, there are number AAPI community based organizations that provide assistance to the diverse AAPI community and doing great work to support AAPIs families. I applaud them for the work that they do every day to help AAPIs to overcome these obstacles and to support to better their lives for themselves and their families.

An example of an outstanding AAPI organization is the Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) that is led by a committed and dedicated individual—Kerry Doi, the President and CEO. The mission of the PACE is to create economic solutions to meet the challenges of employment, education, housing, business development and the environment in the Pacific Asian and other diverse communities. PACE is a non-profit community development organization founded in 1976 to address the employment and job training needs of the Pacific Asian Islander communities. PACE has since expanded into a variety of service areas, all tailored to meet the growing

and changing needs of the multi-ethnic communities in Los Angeles County. Now, in addition to job training and employment services, significant PACE programs encompass: business development; early childhood education; financial education and asset building; housing and rehabilitation services; weatherization and energy-conservation programs; and affordable housing development. PACE's guiding principle in all their programs is the idea of expanding opportunity. A small sample of their business lines include:

An extensive workforce development center which offers a variety of job training opportunities.

190 affordable housing units and a home repair service to enable elderly and disabled persons to stay in their homes.

An extensive energy and environmental program that promotes energy conservation.

A business development center that provides entrepreneurial training, business counseling and access to capital.

28 school sites offering early childhood education programming for more than 1,900 low income children and their families.

A financial literacy and asset building program that provides financial skills training.

This year, PACE established a new initiative called the Diversity and Democracy: America's Strength program that celebrates the important contributions that our nation's many diverse ethnicities, nationalities and races have made to our way of life—and the important role that government has played in their success. With the donation of 40 tickets from Southwest Airlines, PACE embarked on a journey to bring a diverse group of Federal program participants to Washington, DC to meet and hold a briefing with their elected representatives in Congress and representatives of federal agencies and the White House to tell their stories of how these programs have helped them on their journey to achieve the American Dream. The clients who are of various ethnic backgrounds will tell their own unique story describing how various programs empowered them to be able to become productive, economically self-sufficient Americans. They hope by conveying their real stories from PACE program participants will illustrate the key role that the various Federal programs have played in the lives of low income, ethnic minority, refugees, immigrants and asylees. Numbers tell one story; faces tell an even more important story.

As we in Congress debate the funding levels of the Federal programs that have helped numerous PACE participants, it is important that we listen to the voices of the PACE participants who have been helped by these programs that helped them—to start a business, to get the job training they need to secure good paying jobs, to provide early childhood education and to help refugees gain the skills they need to begin a new life in America. I encourage all my colleagues to read the compelling stories of these individuals who have become productive, economically self-sufficient Americans because of the existence of these Federal programs.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

I am Arax Nazarian.

My story is about hope—how I almost lost it and then found it again.

In April 2009, my family and I arrived in the U.S. as refugees from Iran. We fled our country seeking opportunities for a better life and to raise our son in a safe place with-

out harsh discrimination. We came here without any money. But we had lots of hope.

The U.S. was going through one of its worst economic downturn in 2009. I worried about how I could get a job to support my family, repay my debt and help my parents back home. I spoke very little English. I didn't have any work experience in the U.S. I also needed some time to adjust to a new society, new culture, and new rules.

I applied for different full time jobs but I was denied repeatedly for different reasons. I was studying days and nights to improve my English and at the same time working in any odd jobs that I could find. But I was barely making ends meet. I felt helpless, desperate, frustrated and sad. I was losing hope.

My worry and sadness must have shown on my face.

Because my 11-year old son came to me one day and said, "Don't worry, Mom. I don't need a new bow for my violin and I am not interested in going on the school's field trip. I just need your smile." I choked back the lump in my throat with a sense of guilt that I could not provide for my child's needs. I also felt a tinge of pain and pride in my heart that my child would sacrifice his own needs for his mother. I must not give up hope.

A ray of hope came to me when I heard about the Transitional Subsidized Employment program. I started my first Work Experience job at PACE's Home Energy Assistance Program Department where needy families get helped by paying their gas and light bills. Through this on-the-job training opportunity I became more skilled and confident. I learned about my new society, work environment, rules and regulations. Little by little I adjusted myself to a new life here in the United States.

Then I was offered a permanent job and I am now working at PACE Weatherization Department as a Program Support Clerk. I have earned recognition and respect from my coworkers.

And the best of all, I am able to support my family. I am happy that I am no longer dependent on public aid. My husband has a peace of mind to focus on his education in pursuing his career as an Electrician. My son has been growing up with good manners. He is one of the best students in his school, and receiving many awards.

I hope the program will continue to give other people the same opportunities I received. These programs give people hope, create jobs and change people's lives. They gave me my hope and changed my life.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

My name is Benjamin Alcaraz.

My story is about a Legacy through Education.

Like many other families in my neighborhood my mother and father emigrated from Mexico to America for a better life. One thing my mother always preached to her children was to get an education and bring her a High School Diploma. This for any immigrant family was considered a great accomplishment. After my father abandoned our family, my mother's determination to give her children an advantage through education became more acute.

That was when Head Start became a focal point in our lives. My mother enrolled me in a neighborhood Head Start school. I have vivid memories of her cleaning and helping to prepare food for the classroom as a parent volunteer. But what it did more than anything was what education meant to her and what it should mean to me. Once I was in the K-12 system, I flourished. I joined the honors program, and was the 1st in my family to go to a four year university straight after high school.

Now at the age of 33 I have two sons of my own, Mario and Alexander. And I do all of the things my mother did with me like reading books, counting, and learning. And I told them to bring me their College Degrees, one step up from the goal my mother set for me. Once Mario was old enough, I began to look for a preschool for him. I still live in the same neighborhood and I still have vivid memories of my Head Start days. Behold, the same school is still there! Mario loved it once he was enrolled in the same school.

Every day was a new adventure and a new learning experience, for both Mario and me. Just like my mother some 29 years ago, I was now the one helping out with the school, joining the policy councils and looking for ways to grow as a parent.

Head Start did not just give Mario a leg up in learning, but it also helped me to become a better parent. Mario has moved on to the K-12 system, but the experience, the social interaction, and the growth he gained from Head Start was immediately noticeable by his Kindergarten teachers. They expressed that they appreciate those parents who send their kids through Head Start program because they noted those children are more prepared for the K-12 system. Now Mario still sees me involved in his Elementary school and knows how much we as a family emphasize the importance of education.

And I know he understands this expectation because he declared that he will be attending UCLA after high school. Head Start instilled a love of education with Mario and I know it will do the same with my second son, Alexander. And I know they will carry on my mother's legacy of an emphasis on education, especially early on, with their young ones when the time comes. And I know they will also be looking for ways to be as involved as I am as parents.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

My name is Estella Navarrette.

My story is about Mariana and her Head Start experience.

Mariana is my 6th child out of 7. Being a single mom for so many years putting all my children through schools was a well-adjusted routine for me by the time Mariana reached the pre-school age. Playing both mommy and daddy for my seven children were all about finances, feeding and clothing them. Educating my children was not on my radar screen.

As Mariana grew older, she started to be curious and interested about school because of her older siblings coming home talking about their days at school. Right around this time I became a stay-at-home mom because of the learning disability of my youngest child.

Realizing Mariana's interest in school became more persistent, I began looking for information about a Head Start program. And that was when I came across PACE Early Childhood Education and enrolled her in the program.

Mariana was a very quiet and timid child. She was afraid to do anything. With the Head Start program I saw the change in her. Mariana went from always being quiet to being very outspoken. She expresses her feelings whether they are good or bad, and accepts them.

Before Head Start, Mariana reminded me of the same traits I had when I was her age. But unlike me, Mariana will not grow up with a sense of insecurity. I did not have the same opportunity as she does. Mariana will have the opportunity to grow with confidence. She will feel secure and develop a sense of independence because of the learning that the Head Start education has instilled in her. What Mariana has learned at school, she brings home to share with her

other siblings. She is so proud and animated in explaining how her day at Head Start went to her siblings. She even dished out project assignments to them. While explaining the projects to them she gets everyone to sit around like she did at school. I was watching Mariana playing this lead with her sibling and can't help but feel proud and appreciative of how important education is at this early age. Through the process that Mariana has been going through, Head Start has not only brought an interest in education to her, but it has also brought our family together.

Our schedules were always crazy and there was never any family time. Everyone was so busy with school and I was occupied for being a single mom caring for a child with disabilities. Now, after dinner Mariana brings everyone together for family time and to appreciate education.

I appreciate PACE Early Childhood Education because of the love, compassion, and interest that their staff has for our children. I want to thank the PACE organization for showing how warm hearted and caring they are about early childhood education.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

My name is Francisco Talamantes.

I work for PACE's Home Energy Assistance Program or HEAP. The HEAP program helps families pay their utility bills. I help hundreds of families each week to pay for their electricity, water or gas bills.

For example, a lady in her late 20s walks into the office one day with a notice from the utility company that her electricity was about to be disconnected. She had that worry and weary look on her face. Her husband lost his job recently and they have 3 young children to support. Her situation was dire. Should they not feed their children or live in darkness without electricity?

Her electric bill was over \$1000. I calmed her down and told her to not worry and this program is here to help her. Right away you can see the relief on her face. She filled out her application and we got the proper documents copied, and I was able to call the utility company and help her with \$1000, which was enough to prevent disconnection. So perhaps for a little while, they can feed their children with hot food that can be cooked on their electric stove. And perhaps for a little while, her children can read and do their homework not in the dark.

These stories are very common. My co-workers sometimes asked me why I could be so patient and empathetic for so many clients that line up all way down the hall way each day. Do you know why? Because I was one of those children like this lady when I was young. This lady reminded me of when I was growing up when my family also often faced the choice between having food on the table or paying the utility bills.

I feel very honored and proud to be here today. You see, I come from an immigrant family. My parents were born and raised in Mexico and when my father lost his job there he decided to come to this country for a better life. With little education and not being able to speak English, it was hard for my father to find a job. He did his best and was able to find a job to support his family, but still struggled because he did not make much.

What my father brought home was barely enough to pay for rent and food for my eight brothers and sisters. It was great that we had food and a roof over our head but we still worried about our lights being disconnected. So my dad had to work extra shifts to pay the electric bill since we did not know about HEAP program like this.

With the HEAP program families can find relief and hope that they will have a good

chance to overcome their financial struggles. I know what it feels like for not having electricity, water or gas. I feel for the struggle our clients are going through when they come to my window for assistance. My job makes it easier for families to succeed and I feel honored to help them.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

My name is Guojian Cui.

My story is about my transformation as an F.O.B.

I am a trained artist specializing in Chinese calligraphy and traditional Chinese framing. But since I came to America in 1993 with one suitcase and a big dream, I had worked in various other odd jobs for 17 years. But I had always yearned to follow my true passion.

You can tell that I am getting old, thin on top and losing my teeth. For 17 years, I felt like an F.O.B.—“Free on Board”. It is a shipping term. For 17 years, I felt like a shipping good in between departure and destination. I was going somewhere but have not yet arrived. With one push, I could fall into the ocean; or with a push in a different direction I could land in my dream.

In 2009, a push helped me land in my dream. I decided to set up an art gallery business providing framing and Chinese calligraphy services. But my plan ran into a lot of challenges. I faced the challenges of having limited start-up capital. I faced the challenges that my traditional way of using water, paste, brush and simple tools can't compete with modern framing technology. I faced the challenge of declining demand for valuable art because of the near economic crash in 2009. The sharp increase of price of oil did not help either because it made all materials and supplies more expensive. I needed to buy equipment and machines to make my framing more precise. I needed a computer and gave up my abacus. I needed some technical assistance. I felt like an F.O.B. again because I could give up and get dumped into the ocean like a piece of damaged good. Or I could get a different push and land where I wanted to land.

I met PACE's Business Counselor Dandan Shan right around this time. He is a smart young man. He encouraged me to step forward and not give up. He told me that PACE has programs to help small business to start up. So, I was encouraged. I was transformed to become a different F.O.B.—Focus on Business. I was given a little push to step forward on boarding the battle field of business. PACE offered me some technical assistance and some financial support through its Individual Development Account or IDA program designed especially for business start-ups. With the help of PACE, I started my gallery in September, 2010. And I became another FOB—Fighting on Board of the business battle field. I was having fun because I was also a different F.O.B.—Fun on Board.

Now, I have more and more customers and they become my friends. They are satisfied with my services and getting good prices in the deal. For this Year of Dragon, my Chinese calligraphy of “Dragon” was prominently displayed on all the lamppost banners in Los Angeles Chinatown. My conclusion? Micro businesses do need that assistance and that critical push to move forward because it really can help people to go forward with their own business.

This is my F.O.B. Story.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

My name is Hasmik Sargsyan.

My story is about reaching for the American Dream.

My family and I immigrated to the US in 2007. As an immigrant family, we had to

start our life from zero. We had no job, no car, not knowing English, and no one to support morally or help with any advice. In my home country I was a Certified Public Accountant. In the new land my husband and I took any job that came along, and attended school to learn English as a fourth language. Besides taking English classes, I pushed myself to take classes in accounting with a dream that someday I will return to my profession. I got very little sleep in those days for always being busy going to classes, working, washing, cooking, and taking care of my three children.

As I was improving my English skills and beginning to acclimate with my new environment, I did not realize that my own struggle paled in comparison to what my children were going through.

My eldest son always wanted to be an artist and in those days he could only afford to draw pictures with regular pencils. Understanding our financial situation, at his young age, he never asked for anything. I don't know enough about his potential as an artist or if I was just an adoring parent, but I liked his drawing very much. But I could not afford to buy him any art supplies or pay for any art classes. It was extremely painful for me for not being able to help my child to reach his dream as I was struggling to reach mine.

At that time, I was attending Glendale College. I heard about programs that help people with employment. I called many workforce programs in Los Angeles but only PACE responded to me. PAC's Transitional Subsidized Employment program helped me to land a temporary job that helped me to gain work experience, knowledge, skills and confidence. Then PACE offered me a permanent position in the Department of Energy and Environmental Services in Weatherization Program as a Program Specialist. It was unbelievable to me when I was being interviewed and they said to me “you are hired”. I started to cry because they gave me hope that I had lost.

I am so thankful for this program. Now I am self sufficient and I feel happy awakening every day with the sense of joy knowing that I have a job. I have gained recognition from my co-workers. I am grateful that I no longer live at the expense of the government. I cannot find words to express my gratitude for what PACE and the federal government program has done for my family, especially for my son. Now I can afford to pay for his art lessons and buy him art supplies for his drawing. Because of this, he is taking part in many Art exhibitions. I believe that one day he will become a famous artist and he will write about the history of his family and the struggles of immigrant lives.

My story is neither a special nor an extraordinary one, but it is similar to the lives of many other people who have been struggling. We are truly grateful with the support we received to reach for our American Dream. I wish the opportunities afforded me will continued to be made for other families like mine.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

My name is Judy Thang.

My story is about how a passionate entrepreneur got started!

Starting a business as a young woman is tough in any industry. Being a graphic designer working with small business owners is even harder. As a recent graduate from a California State University, I've always had two passions—starting my own business and helping other small business owners build their brand image. I guess my parents passed their entrepreneur bug to me.

My parents owned a restaurant where I worked as a little cashier at age 12 and graduated to potato peeling when I got older.

They promoted my little sister from janitor to cashier. We grew up with lots of work ethic, eating lots of delicious hot wings. When my parents moved to Australia, my sister and I kept the restaurant operating for a while. So naturally, out of school, I couldn't wait to open my own business. I took a low-paying job in marketing to gain some experience, then quit a few years later to start my business, girlwithflair design.

I had no money, no formal design experience, and no connection in the industry since I majored in business. There were a lot of obstacles. Age was my biggest difficulty. Here I was, trying to convince a client to let me build his brand image and generate sales, but I looked like I was fresh out high school! I charged peanuts for what I did three years ago.

Fortunately, I found Swann, my savior and mentor at PACE Woman Business Center. Here are a few important things she and PACE have done for me: 1) Great Advice—When I had problems with my pricing, she gave me invaluable advice on how to stick to my guns; 2) Networking—I've gotten to know other small business owners, which makes me not feel so lonely; 3) I've gotten a lot of referrals to other small business owners.

It has only been a year, but I am far from where I started. I now have an office space in Chinatown, a much steadier clientele and lots of happy customers that help me constantly with new referrals. Without Swann's guidance in the past year, I would probably be eating instant noodles everyday for dinner. That, or go find a 'real' job, as my parents would say. I'd rather eat instant noodles.

I have come forward to share my story because I believe in the value of social programs that empower people to start their own businesses. Programs such as PACE Woman Business Center provide hope and opportunity for underrepresented segments of society. These are the people working at restaurants for minimum wages, making tamales, bookkeeping or assembling furniture in between work who dream of becoming an entrepreneur one day. The fact that they are great at their hobby and passionate enough to invest their energy, time and money to pursue it merits the support that programs such as PACE Women Business Center provides.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

My Name is Kimberly Hua. I am a Head Start Parent.

My story is about "The Window of Opportunity".

When my family and I emigrated here from Vietnam, my parents could barely provide food and shelter for me and my two siblings, much less taking us on buses to go places. My parents did not speak English and did not know where to look for help. They did not know that they could have put my siblings and me through free pre-schools that would prepare us for kindergarten. Their concern was working two jobs to make ends meet. So from the beginning, school was hard for me and I struggled every day. I ended up hating school and did not appreciate the value of a quality education.

The "window of opportunity" opened for my children when I enrolled my two sons in the PACE Head Start Program. I wanted to make sure that my sons would have the opportunity that I did not have when I was a child. Although I appreciated the benefits and resources that PACE Head Start education offered to my children, I was working a lot and did not spend enough time with my children.

I did not know at the time that this "opportunity" was for me too. What changed was when I became a PACE parent policy committee member.

My active volunteerism inspired and empowered my children to develop their own sense of independence and self-confidence and love of learning. In my children's eyes, I was no longer just their mother; I was also a teacher and a mentor. Because of all that, I believe that my children will establish a solid educational foundation and acquire the early learning skills to carry them throughout their higher education.

Watching my children blossoming at the Head Start Program, I was inspired to grow with them. I decided to follow my life-long dream of pursuing an advanced degree. I completed my master's degree with a 3.80 GPA in April this year. I will always be grateful to the parenting and empowerment programs that Head Start program had to offer to parents like me. My story of "The Window of Opportunity" is why I am here today to show my support for the Head Start program. I believe early education can play a critical role for young children and increase their odds of success in later life.

The Head Start program also played a critical role for parents like me. It helped me to become a better parent to my children. Along the way, I became a better person and an advocate for my community.

BUSINESS LOANS

My name is Linda Wong.

My story is about sacrifice and courage.

My parents immigrated to the US from Taiwan when I was 6 years old so their children could have a better education in America. My sister and I were the only two Chinese children in a new school that taught in a language that I knew nothing of, except my new name, Linda—I was no longer Chih-Ling. I quickly learned that adapting to a new culture would be just as challenging as the language barrier.

There were many days when I came home crying because I was made fun of for being different. My parents did their best to console me, while hiding their own struggles of assimilating to this country. When I was 16 my father decided to leave my mother, my sister and I to return to Taiwan.

Since my mother did not speak any English, I was left with all the responsibilities of my father: I made sure all the bills were paid on time, did all the grocery shopping and signed my own letters of excuse when I was sick from school. Some might think a child with that kind of "freedom" would take advantage of the situation; however, this had the opposite effect on me. I knew I had to really work hard in school to get into a good college since my parents had sacrificed for us to have a better life.

After receiving my Bachelors of Arts from Otis College of Art & Design, I was hired by a multi-million dollar jewelry company to help launch their first clothing collection. I took the skills I learned there and formed my own clothing company, The Battalion. In 2011 my business generated \$350,000 in sales, but lacked the capital to pay our fabric vendors and contractors. If we could not pay to produce the goods that we had already sold we would lose both the orders and trust of our customers. We turned to PACE to help us find solution to our problem. In March 2011, with the guidance of PACE's Mr. Howard Sun, The Battalion received a loan of \$30,000 from PACE SBA Micro-Loan Program. Two months later we promptly delivered our products to our customers' satisfaction.

Running a business never gets any easier; there are always new challenges and road-

blocks that loom ahead. It is easier to summon the courage to face these obstacles when you have a program like PACE in your corner. I believe this is an essential program because it makes it possible to succeed for people who have sacrificed and have courage to charge forward.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

My name is Patrick Martinez. I am a Head Start parent.

My story is about keeping a promise, a promise I made to my son before he was even born. I vowed that I'd be there for him no matter what obstacles we faced.

My story began with a typical boy meets girl story. Boy and girl fall in love. They give birth to a precious little baby boy after spending eight years together.

The arrangement was for me to be a stay-home dad to take care of my child and our home. I was very proud of my little family. Then it became the girl leaves boy story.

My baby boy and I were kicked out of our house. We suddenly found ourselves displaced.

We found ourselves having to live at my parents' house. In a living room that grew cramped with our play pens and diapers. Why did this happen to us? What was I to do? I was in a lot of pain and felt depressed. I was left with two choices. I either walk the road of self-destruction, or keep that promise I made to my son. One night, to distract my heart and mind, I watched one of my favorite movies, Star Wars. I sat on the couch watching that movie, while my son slept in his playpen in front of me. I tearfully looked into that playpen as he slept and I thought, "You're my Luke! You're A New Hope." We weren't going to succumb to the Dark Side. That promise would be kept.

Early the next morning my Padawan and I went to seek help at a local agency. That agency led us to services such as food stamps, fatherhood support groups and parenting classes. I took everything and anything I felt that could help my son and me. We were then led to PACE Head Start program. Through PACE and Head Start I watched my son grow socially and mentally. I grew along side of my son through its parenting and Male Involvement programs. I became a more engaged father. I became encouraged to volunteer at my son's site, which I've done nearly every single day. I became involved on the parent policy committees at both the delegate and grantee levels. Through this involvement, I was helping other families as well and by being a positive male role model to my son and to other families.

PACE and Head Start have made me a man, a better parent, a leader, an advocate, and a representative for my community. It has enriched my son's education, as well as thousands of other children they serve. If Head Start and the services were to be cut, it could surely crumble the future of hundreds of thousands of families like mine. That is how effective and powerful this program is to our children, our families, our community, and our country. Early childhood education is where our future leaders are created and where our families are strengthened. Without this program we may lose all hope.

My story of that promise is why I am here today to tell how Head Start and early childhood education helps parents keep promises to our children.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5326) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) final rule detailing requirements for accessible entry and exit for pools and spas under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and in opposition to a provision included in the Commerce, Justice, and Science FY13 Appropriations Bill to inhibit DOJ's enforcement of this important rule.

Over twenty years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the accessibility of swimming pools and other recreational facilities remains important to people with disabilities around the country. The 54 million Americans living with disabilities deserve to finally be able to enjoy these facilities to the same extent as others in our society.

The Department's process to develop accessibility guidelines for swimming pools began over 7 years ago on September 30, 2004, and the DOJ published the final rule on September 2010 after receiving feedback from all stakeholders and the public. DOJ delayed compliance until May 21, 2012 and issued guidance at the beginning of this year, clarifying the intent of the final rule.

The final rule ensures that small, family-owned business are not overburdened, by only requiring installation of fixed pool lifts for existing pools and spas if it is "readily achievable," meaning that it is not overly costly or burdensome. It strikes an appropriate balance between the needs of Americans living with disabilities and our businesses.

The need for pools and spas to be accessible for people with disabilities is not a new idea, but one that has been in federal law for more than 2 decades. The requirement to remove barriers to accessibility to swimming pools for people with disabilities has been part of the statutory requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act since it was passed in 1990, almost 22 years ago. The regulatory process is functioning just as it was intended to.

People with disabilities should be able to enjoy the same recreational amenities and opportunities as every other American. Delaying the effective date of the regulations any further will mean another season where people with disabilities will be denied the opportunity to use pools when they travel on vacations with their families or on business.

JADA HERRERA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jada Herrera for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jada Herrera is a 7th grader at Wheat Ridge 5-8 and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jada Herrera 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 Jada Herrera for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF DR. ZEB F.
POINDEXTER, JR.

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the memory of a trailblazer, Dr. Zeb Ferdinand Poindexter, Jr. With exceptional distinction, Dr. Poindexter served his community and acted as a role model for young people from diverse backgrounds.

Dr. Poindexter was born in Fort Worth, TX on April 5, 1929. He excelled in school, graduating from Wiley College with a B.S. in 1949 and then Texas Southern University with an M.S. in Endocrinology in 1952. Dr. Poindexter, upon completion of his Master of Science, served our great nation as a Second Lieutenant and later Captain in the United States Air Force. Later, he and the University of Texas (UT) took a bold and historically meaningful step forward when he was accepted into University of Texas School of Dentistry in Houston. He became the first African American to receive a doctoral degree from the school in 1956.

Dr. Poindexter's graduation from and association with the University of Texas (UT) literally changed the image of UT. His indelible example can continue to impact future generations of UT graduates, should UT take another bold and historically meaningful step forward by naming the School of Dentistry in his honor. It would symbolize his commitment to UT, and memorialize UT's commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

After receiving his degree from UT, Dr. Poindexter opened the first dental clinic in south Houston. The clinic still stands as a landmark to his achievement in the Sunnyside neighborhood. After establishing his practice, he went on to form the Zeb F. Poindexter, Jr. Chapter of the Student National Dental Association, and become the first black member of both the University of Texas Dental School

faculty and the Houston District Dental Society.

Dr. Poindexter's leadership and community service have been consistently recognized by his colleagues. Amongst other honors, Dr. Poindexter became the president of the Gulf State Dental Association, life member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, board member of the Urban League, and received the University of Texas Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1990.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, Dr. Poindexter will be dearly missed by his wife of 58 years, Ruby Poindexter, son, Dr. Zeb F. Poindexter, III, and daughters, Merlene Russell and Eleanor Patricia Dixon. He is also survived by his sisters, Revodia Johnson, Vandetta King, his brother, James Poindexter, and numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. He will be remembered in the city of Houston as a dedicated public servant and principled leader.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL TEACHER
DAY

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 645 to urge my colleagues and our nation to observe Teacher Appreciation Week and the monumental contributions of America's teachers.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 645, I commend our nation's teachers for their tireless work on behalf of millions of students and families; their knowledge and expertise; and their selfless dedication to their profession.

Throughout the year, our nation's teachers spend countless hours preparing lesson plans, evaluating student progress, counseling students and families, and instilling the vital importance of civic responsibility and national service.

In South Texas, we are fortunate to have exceptional educators who work day in and day out to educate and prepare children, youth, and adult learners to lead prosperous and healthy lives.

I especially want to thank Dr. Daniel King, Superintendent of the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo (PSJA) Independent School District, for honoring 44 of PSJA's teachers of the year this month.

Today, it's truly an honor for me to recognize and congratulate two of PSJA's outstanding teachers of year: my daughter, Iliana Hinojosa, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Dr. William Long Elementary who was selected as the PSJA Elementary District Teacher of the Year; and Agnes Ocampo, a science teacher at PSJA Memorial High School who was selected as the PSJA Secondary District Teacher of the Year.

Due to their hard work and extraordinary commitment to students and academic excellence, Iliana and Agnes have advanced to the regional competition. This is quite an accomplishment!

Iliana Hinojosa and Agnes Ocampo are shining examples of what can be achieved in our nation's classrooms. By instilling a love of learning in our children and ensuring that they