

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, since 1994 Congress has expanded and reauthorized the landmark Violence Against Women Act numerous times in a bipartisan manner. It is unfortunate that the Republican leadership in the House has deviated from tradition with this bill.

This bill not only strips important provisions that were passed in the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 68–31, but also weakens preventive provisions that have been included in previous bills reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, which were supported by Democrats and Republicans over the past 18 years. The Senate's comprehensive reauthorization bill improves protections for Native American women, immigrants, and ensures all victims are assisted regardless of religion or sexual orientation. I support the Senate's bipartisan approach to the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization bill. I cosponsored a version of the bill in the House of Representatives. I also voted to bring the Senate bill up for a vote in the House, but the Republican leadership blocked all amendments and the opportunity to vote on the Senate version.

House Republicans have brought to the floor today a controversial bill that will weaken long-standing protections and roll back key provisions. This is the first time the Violence Against Women Act has become political and it is shame. More than 300 groups have opposed aspects of this bill. Those groups include the National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, Break the Cycle, U.S. Conference of Mayors, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, National Organization for Women, YWCA USA, AAUW, Business and Professional Women's Foundation, National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, American Bar Association, Human Rights Campaign, NAACP, National Congress of American Indians, National Council of La Raza, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, United Church of Christ, and the United Methodist Church. I believe that Congress should stand up for all victims of domestic violence and support a comprehensive reauthorization bill.

I hope the House rejects this bill today and immediately passes the Senate's Violence Against Women Act reauthorization bill. I will monitor the progress of this bill in conference with the Senate. I am hopeful that future changes and improvements will give me a chance to vote on an acceptable alternative.

IN HONOR OF MRS. MARILYN
RANSOM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mrs. Marilyn Ransom, the North

Olmsted Community Council Citizen of the Year for 2012. A resident of North Olmsted, Ohio since 1967, Marilyn has been an active volunteer and activist in her community for more than four decades.

Marilyn became involved in volunteerism as a parent by supporting her children's schools and the Girl Scouts. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, she volunteered as a cadet assistant leader, leader and eventually Field Director for the Erie Shores Girl Scout Council as a recruiter for future leaders. Marilyn was also an involved member of the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). She served as president of the North Olmsted Pre-School PTA and the Early Childhood Education chair for the Ohio PTA.

Marilyn dedicated her time to the City of Lorain YMCA, where, in her role as administrator, she was able to keep the facility open for an additional three years. She was an active member of the North Olmsted Christian Science Society, an organizer of Relay for Life teams and a volunteer with North Olmsted Community Council's Scholarship and Parade Committee. Marilyn was instrumental in the creation of the North Olmsted Honest Conversations program and the All Nations Day celebrations.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Marilyn Ransom, the 2012 North Olmsted Community Council Citizen of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SECOND
INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT
MA YING-JEOU OF TAIWAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, it is important to recognize the very important occasion of the second Inauguration of President Ma Ying-Jeou as the leader of our friend and ally the Republic of China (Taiwan).

The upcoming inauguration on May 20, 2012 is the culmination of a tremendous amount of hard work by President Ma who is deserving of praise for his years of public service. President Ma began his career as an assistant to the President of Taiwan before he became the youngest Cabinet Minister in the history of Taiwan. He confronted the difficult challenges of the Justice Ministry where he investigated and prosecuted corrupt public officials before being elected as the Mayor of Taipei where he successfully helped Taiwan's largest city grow economically. First elected in 2008 President Ma is now beginning another four year term following his recent reelection.

Last year, the United States and Taiwan celebrated the 100 year anniversary of our friendship and alliance. I look forward to continuing a robust friendship with this steadfast ally for many years to come and send my best wishes to President Ma as he undertakes the challenges of a second term in office.

HONORING HUDSON VALLEY'S
FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders who serve our beautiful Hudson Valley in New York's 19th Congressional District.

This past year brought many challenges to our first responders. It's a privilege to join all of our neighbors in thanking these men and women. As part of our nation's first line of defense, our police, fire, and emergency services personnel put themselves at risk every day to protect our homes, families, and communities.

In particular, the first responders named below deserve special recognition for conspicuous acts of valor, years of dedicated service, and leadership.

From Orange and Rockland Counties:

Captain William Stropell

Responder Stephen Broesler

Responder Melvin Livsey, Jr.

Responder Elieen Searless

Paramedic Elizabeth Bodnar

EMT Pat Conques

EMT Lois Stranges

EMT Anthony Maggio

EMT Shaun Mill

Firefighter Justin Phillips

Police Officer John Bourke

Public Safety Dispatcher Brad Dain

Firefighter Andrew Kolesar

Gas Troubleshooter Ian Mackey

Gas Troubleshooter Lee Stipek

Firefighter Kenneth Patterson

Firefighter Jerry Knapp

The West Haverstraw Volunteer Fire Department

The Haverstraw Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Rockland Mobile Care Paramedics

The Rockland County Anti-Terrorism Analytical Group

From Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties:

North Salem Emergency Management Coordinator Kurt Guldán

Chief Albert Melillo

Firefighter Joseph Simoncini, Sr.

Firefighter Robert H. Ruston

The Westchester County Technical Rescue Team

Tim Fisher, Richard Benkwitt, Thomas Bock, Joseph Alimena, Chris Blaich, Fred

Briggs, Carlos Canos, Paul Cappello, Chris Colombo, Mark Dickey, Robert

Franklin, William Gallagher, Phil Goulet, Nikolai Kabelev, Eliot Lazar, Gerard

McIlvain, Terence Murphy, Jerome Newman, Joseph Nickischer, Doug Palmesi,

Richard Palmesi, Brett Schlosser, Albert Sulenski

Paramedic, EMT, and Past Captain Donald Graesser

Police Officer Bryan Shay

Police Officer James Terrazos

Detective John Falcone

Paramedic Michael Revenson

Lieutenant Erin Scott

Past Chief Kenneth Clair

Firefighter Daniel Valentine

Firefighter Michael M. Bowman

Chief Mathew Steltz

Captain James Matero
The Cold Spring Volunteer Fire Company
The North Highland Volunteer Fire Company
The Putnam County 911 Emergency Dispatchers
The Putnam County Intelligence Committee
The Fairview Fire Department
The Veterans Affairs Hudson Valley Health Care System

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to acknowledge and appreciate those who give so much of themselves to keep us safe.

HONORING SOUTH ABINGTON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor South Abington Elementary School, and a very special group of third grade students, recognizing their efforts to found and promote the Paws for Peace initiative.

Inspired by a children's book, Paws for Peace is an initiative started by six third-grade students from South Abington Elementary, with one goal: end the cruelty and suffering of animals in puppy mills. Many puppy mills engage in inhuman practices, including forcing dogs to live their entire lives in cages.

Paws for Peace encourages people to adopt animals from local shelters and pet rescues, rather than turning to puppy mills, using the slogan "Adopt, don't shop!" Through local and social media, members of Paws for Peace have been able to spread their message of animal welfare and humanity, creating a great impact throughout the 10th District.

With the assistance of Principal Robert D. Bugno, and teachers Judy Szymanski and Emily Saslo, third graders Olivia Arcuri, Paige Caskey, Ashley Hamilton, Christina Leo, Gianna Marturano, Mattie McGuinness, and Grace Phillips have truly made a difference in their community. They have demonstrated a heartfelt commitment to their cause, and I am proud to applaud their efforts here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituents, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising their commitment to all walks of life in Pennsylvania's 10th Congressional District.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4970 because it represents a missed opportunity to renew the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. VAWA exists because women have a human right to live in dignity without fear of criminal activity being perpetrated against them, and local and national law enforcement agencies must have specific tools to protect that right.

The bill before this House will undermine the progress our nation has made toward pro-

tecting and supporting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. It runs counter to the intent of VAWA by cutting vital existing protections for battered immigrant women, and excludes important protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning, LGBTQ, victims, as well as Native American women. This bill fails to protect some of the most vulnerable victims and leaves them without access to essential services.

Three in five Native American women have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime. Up to 33 percent of the LGBTQ community are victims of domestic violence. These are not merely statistics; these are people we represent and they need our support.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

HONORING ROBIN GREGORIUS,
ALABAMA SMALL BUSINESS
PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Robin Gregorius, who was recently selected the 2012 Alabama Small Business Person of Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Ms. Gregorius' personal story is a testament to her determination to realize her dream of establishing an assisted living center that addresses the needs of her patients for the comforts and of home rather than a care facility.

The daughter of immigrant parents from the former nation of Czechoslovakia, Ms. Gregorius grew up on a farm in Robertsedale in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Her career as a registered nurse took her across the country, both near and far, including the cities of New Orleans and Los Angeles. Yet, she returned to the Mobile area to put her knowledge to work for local patients who would benefit from her new approach to assisted living care.

In a recent interview with the Mobile Press-Register, Ms. Gregorius noted that over her career she had observed that her older patients longed for "homey" surroundings in their care facilities with home cooking—important touches that were often lacking in assisting living quarters. And equally important, the staff in many care facilities seldom offered the "family touch" that many older patients sought.

Ms. Gregorius knew there was a better way and she sought to implement a new approach of "assisted living with a heartbeat." While the journey to fulfilling her dream was a long one, involving two decades of saving money—often working double shifts to earn for a down payment—she eventually secured a \$1 million bank loan. The results have been rewarding.

Today, she owns and operates the Country Gables Assisted Living Home in Grand Bay where she and her staff of 14 care for patients in a novel way. As she put it, her care facility "is pretty much run like a big bed-and-breakfast hotel, except it's breakfast, lunch and dinner with a 24-hour continuum of care."

Ms. Gregorius is joined by her mother, Lahoma, and her sister, Ramona, in running their small assisted living facility like a large

family home. Their hard work has been rewarded with the satisfaction of their patients and the knowledge that County Gables is a special place.

Fittingly, in March, Robin Gregorius was named as Alabama's Small Business Person of the Year. On May 20, 2012, she will officially receive her award at a Small Business Administration conference honoring the nation's other Small Business awardees here in Washington, DC.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I wish to extend personal congratulations to Ms. Gregorius and her family for not only receiving this wonderful honor, but also for their substantial contributions to the lives of many local seniors.

HONORING POLISH MUSEUM OF
AMERICA

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the more than 110,000 Polish-American constituents in the fifth Congressional district in Illinois, I proudly recognize the 75th anniversary of the Polish Museum of America.

Ever since the inaugural mayoral election where three Polish-American citizens cast their votes for our first mayor, the Polish community has been influencing the culture and direction of the city of Chicago.

The Polish Museum of America is one of the oldest ethnic museums in the United States. The museum was founded in 1935 as a way to promote Polish culture, literature, customs and history as well as attest to the Polish presence in North America.

The Polish Museum of America has one of the most extensive archives and libraries on Polish history in the world, including original prints of flyers, posters, books, and an amazing genealogical research section. The library and archives of the museum are truly invaluable resources for both the Polish and the non-Polish communities of Chicago.

The museum holds many important historical collections, two of which are a collection of personal belongings of Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the second prime minister of Poland, as well as the items from the 1939 World Fair Polish Pavilion. Along with these treasures of Polish history, the PMA frequently houses modern art and other temporary exhibits which represent the proud culture of the Polish people.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and honor to congratulate the Polish Museum of America on 75 years of deepening all of our understanding and respect of the rich Polish history, traditions, and culture. I wish them even more success in the years to come.

RECOGNITION OF MS. LESLEY
KILP HAENNY

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Lesley Kilp Haenny in