

title of the measure was a misnomer. The proposed law did not seek to fight sex-based discrimination in our society, but was rather designed to cut down the personal rights of women.

Let me be clear, I am opposed to sex-selection abortion based on gender. However, the legislation voted upon yesterday was overbroad and dangerous. It proposed harsh sentences for doctors and individuals that strive to provide support to a woman as she makes difficult decisions concerning her personal health. It threatened the sanctity of doctor-patient confidentiality, and would have created an environment that allowed hearsay to be used as a weapon to impose Federal regulation on a purely personal matter.

Let's see this bill for what it truly was. It was yet another attempt to undermine a woman's right to choose. It was an insidious attack on personal rights. We have fought hard for our rights as women, and I will never stand by idly as some in Congress try to destroy something women like me hold so dear! If this Congress was serious about taking up issues of discrimination it would have wasted its time on this bill. We should be using our precious time here to discuss is our unequal education system, our disproportionate access to capital, or the lack of basic medical care that 47 million Americans deal with daily. Apparently, some of us believe that discrimination only exists in the womb. This type of hypocrisy and two handed policy-making must stop, and I suggest proponents of the bill examine whether or not the measure goes along with the ideals of limited government that are supposed to drive their agenda.

I am glad that we defeated the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, and promise that I will fight to strike down any other measure of the same nature in the future.

MURFREESBORO ISLAMIC CENTER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today saddened that yet another community in America is attempting to stop construction of an Islamic Center, this time in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Unlike the controversy that surrounded the construction of the Islamic Center near the World Trade Center Memorial, the opponents here cannot mask their disdain for Muslim Americans by claiming to act on behalf of the families of the victims of 9/11. In fact, the opponents have not even tried, instead letting their prejudice and paranoia dictate their course.

It is ironic that these opponents contend, without any evidence, that Muslim Americans in Murfreesboro want to replace the Constitution, while they hypocritically ignore freedom of worship, a belief so central to our Nation it is enshrined in the 1st Amendment.

What makes America great is our people's unshakeable love of freedom and a monumental history that welcomes every viewpoint, faith, and background. As our Nation grows and its diversity widens, we must not forget the values on which we were founded.

We cannot, in one instance, celebrate freedom of expression, and in the next, silence

those with whom our viewpoints differ. We cannot, in one breath, claim that all Americans are free to worship as they see fit, and in the next, oppose an effort to build the house of worship that makes exercising that freedom possible.

Anyone can embrace freedom of expression when their viewpoints go unchallenged. The American way means that those who vehemently disagree are able to speak their views side by side and that differing faiths can be practiced streets apart. We must all ask ourselves—will we abandon our Constitutional principles when they allow others to voice opinions that are contrary to our own or practice a faith different than our own? Or will we stand up for the freedom of all Americans to practice their own beliefs? That is the true test of what it means to be American.

The Murfreesboro Islamic Center has been facing down protests since 2010 and is once again making headlines after a judge ruled that the local officials did not provide sufficient public notice under local law before approving the project. I know that the Muslim American community would want this project completed in accordance with local ordinances, so I fully expect they will work with officials to ensure the appropriate process is followed.

Once these processes are completed, I hope that opponents will recognize that construction is protected by our Constitution. Additional vandalism and intimidation is counter to everything we stand for as Americans and everything that makes our country great.

We are better than this as a Nation. Our proud history and hard-fought principles demand more.

CONGRATULATING BETTY
ESNAULT AS THE 2012 COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOREE FOR THE LAMBDA RHO ZETA CHAPTER OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Betty Esnault of the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. as she is recognized by the chapter as the 2012 Community Service Honoree.

Whether in a professional setting or during her countless hours of community service, Mrs. Esnault has dedicated herself to the improvement of others' lives. Her commitment to the health and safety of her co-workers was evident from the beginning of her career at General Motors, where she worked to improve the conditions of the assembly processes through the introduction of ergonomics. Using her knowledge of ergonomics from her studies at the former General Motors Institute and the University of Michigan, Mrs. Esnault worked with industry designers to implement ergonomically-sound policies. Through Mrs. Esnault's efforts to acquire ergonomically designed tools and safer production practices, innovative assembly processes were developed to both improve working conditions and eliminate employees' risk of injury. Mrs. Esnault retired from General Motors after a successful 32 year career as a Technical Integration Engineer.

After retiring from GM, Mrs. Esnault shifted her focus to helping her neighbors and fellow Southeast Michigan residents. As a member of the St. Damien Catholic Parish and a graduate of the Sacred Heart Major Seminary with a diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Mrs. Esnault is active in planning worship services, serving as a substitute teacher for religious education, and singing in the choir. Mrs. Esnault also spends her time volunteering with various organizations, reaching out to help her community in a variety of ways. Mrs. Esnault volunteers at American House in Pontiac where she leads Communion services. She is also on the Board of Directors and volunteers at the Matchan Nutrition Center, an organization that serves nutritious lunches to residents of Oakland County in need. She also serves on the Board of Directors and volunteers at Fr. Pops' Clinic, a free clinic with volunteer doctors who provide health care services to those without insurance.

In addition to her service in the community, Mrs. Esnault is a loving wife and mother. She has also been recognized as a Life Member of the NAACP and a Gold Life Member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Betty Esnault has made it her mission to improve the lives of others. She has dedicated countless hours to this pursuit both professionally and philanthropically over many decades. Her zeal to serve others is both inspiring and moving, as there is no doubt that her work has been felt by so many across Southeast Michigan. I am pleased to honor Mrs. Esnault as she receives her award from Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

HONORING ROBIN GREGORIUS,
ALABAMA SMALL BUSINESS
PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 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 officially received 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.

REPRESENTATIVE KIND FLOOR
AMENDMENT 67 (RULES AMEND-
MENT 143) TO THE NATIONAL DE-
FENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT
(H.R. 4310)

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the amendment to permit the National Guard and Federal agencies performing homeland defense activities to enter into a military cooperative agreement with facilities capable of providing emergency response training.

Providing our National Guard units and public service employees with increased opportunities to train at the state of the art homeland defense training facilities is just plain common-sense. It's a win for the military and service personnel who will be better prepared to safely work in the field and a win for the local communities, who will see local job creation.

My amendment does not call for any increase in funding. It is simply a legislative fix to allow the training facilities to competitively bid for training contracts with the National Guard and Federal agencies. This will allow for additional, comprehensive training for those who are on the front lines during a domestic emergency.

I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment to ensure that our National Guard and homeland disaster first responders have all of the training and tools necessary to carry out their mission.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 302 I was inadvertently recorded as voting "aye."

I oppose the Grimm amendment and my vote should be recorded as "nay."

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
REFORM ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 5651, the Food and Drug Administration Reform Act of 2012, to reauthorize the Prescription Drug User Fee Act and the Medical Device User Fee Act. These critically important laws have improved patient access to important therapies and expedited the FDA's approval times while upholding the most rigorous standards for patient safety.

The Prescription Drug User Fee Act, PDUFA, was enacted in 1992 when drug review times were lagging and FDA simply couldn't keep up with the flood of new drug applications. Through user fees paid by applicants, PDUFA gave FDA the resources it needed to hire and support more staff. The program has been successful at reducing review-time backlogs and expediting safe and effective therapies to patients.

Along with faster drug approvals, Congress also recognized the need to study drugs in children. As the original author of the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act, BPCA, and the Pediatric Research Equity Act, PREA, I'm proud of how successful these programs have been in treating children, resulting in new dosing information, new indications of use, new safety information, and new data on effectiveness. Before BPCA and PREA, the vast majority of drugs (more than 80 percent) used in children were used off-label, without data for their safety and efficacy. Today, that number has been reduced to 50 percent.

We know that children are not just small adults—they have unique medical needs and drugs react differently in their bodies. That's why in this year's reauthorization, it was important for us to look at areas in need of improvement. The bipartisan legislation gives FDA the tools it needs to ensure companies are thinking about pediatric populations as early as possible in the drug development process, and that they're able to enforce timelines that are routinely missed. The language encourages further study into untested age groups, like neonates, and clarifies any confusion over what some see as "loopholes" to allow companies to access the market exclusivity incentive without completing additional studies.

The legislation ensures that companies routinely submit their pediatric plans earlier in the process by establishing a clear timeline and expectations. I will be closely monitoring the regulation that will implement the pediatric

plan content, as it was my intention that the regulation closely mirror the 1998 Pediatric Rule.

I thank my colleagues, Rep. MIKE ROGERS and Rep. EDWARD MARKEY who worked tirelessly with me to improve these programs, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, along with 20 other pediatric advocacy groups who provided expert guidance and recommendations throughout the process. Together we've improved BPCA and PREA to benefit medical care for children for generations to come.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF ALA-
BAMA GYMNASTICS COACH
SARAH PATTERSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 1, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor University of Alabama gymnastics coach Sarah Patterson who led the Crimson Tide to its sixth national championship this spring. In addition to racking up an impressive record of victories over her 34 seasons in Tuscaloosa, Coach Patterson has helped establish Alabama as a dominate force in college gymnastics.

It is fitting that Coach Patterson was hired by then-Athletic Director Paul "Bear" Bryant, himself no stranger to bringing home national titles to Alabama. Since arriving in Tuscaloosa after graduating from Slippery Rock State College in Pennsylvania, Coach Patterson has proven time and again her ability to lead the Crimson Tide's gymnastics team and maintain its dominance in the college sport.

Coach Patterson vaulted the University to prominence as one of only four teams to capture the NCAA Women's Gymnastics championship since Women's Gymnastics was declared a championship sport in 1982. Her excellence in coaching also helped to earn the Crimson Tide gymnastics team spots in 29 consecutive NCAA championship competitions. Coach Patterson has also led the Tide to 27 years of a top six finish and 20 top three finishes.

Fittingly, Coach Patterson was named NCAA Women's Gymnastics Coach of the Year in 1986, 1988, 1991, and 2002; and Southeastern Conference Women's Gymnastics Coach of the Year in 1985, 1995, 2000 and 2010.

Coach Patterson's distinguished record includes: Six NCAA Women's Gymnastics championships—1988, 1991, 1996, 2002, 2011, and 2012; Seven Southeastern Conference Championships—1988, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2003, 2009, and 2011; 27 NCAA Regional Titles—1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Coach Patterson is assisted by her husband, David, who helps with coaching the athletes. Their hard work, along with other volunteer coaches and assistant coaches, have led the Alabama gymnastics team to six national championships and the enviable position of being one of the best in the nation, year in and year out, as well as the many well-rounded athletes who have graduated to go on to great success in many fields.