

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, during an evening series of votes on July 24, 2013, on amendments to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act FY2014 (H.R. 2397), I intended to vote “yes” on the Amash/Conyers Amendment (rollcall No. 412), but inadvertently voted “no”. This amendment would require the government to limit its collection of the records to those that actually pertain to the subject of a duly authorized investigation. The National Security Agency and other agencies would still retain their authority to collect specific records under Section 215, however, blanket collection of telephone records would end. I strongly support both protecting our country and preserving our civil liberties.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.
DAVID MCCOURT**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2013, the State of Connecticut and our nation lost an extraordinary man, David McCourt. A New London native, David's life served as a beacon of hope and wisdom in our difficult times. David was a highly successful businessman who took over a family business, ABCO Welding Supply, in 1986 with his brother Bill. Through hard work and entrepreneurial skill, they grew the business and achieved a comfortable station in life.

Tragically on September 11, 2001, that idyllic story was violently upset when his wife Ruth and four-year-old daughter Juliana died aboard United Flight 175 that crashed into the Twin Towers in New York City. The horror and pain of that loss was devastating to David and any person would be forgiven for reacting to such a loss with anger and depression. David, however, responded differently. After a period of mourning he sought heal the division and conflict which are part of modern existence, rather than inflame violence and hate.

After a spiritual awakening, he helped found B.R.A.V.E. Juliana, a program of HELP USA. He devoted his time to teach children non-violence and conflict resolution. He said “what we have to do is start with the children in this country and teach them tolerance, compassion, and understanding.” In 2002, he also founded the Juliana Valentine McCourt Children's Education Fund. Each year the fund gives out funding to local youth organizations.

Each year the New London Police Department and Fire Department host a benefit softball game to remember the events of 9/11 and raise donations for the McCourt Fund. The Juliana Valentine McCourt Memorial Softball game brings the whole community together in remembrance of the victims. New London was very pleased and excited when David attended the 2012 game, which raised over \$1,000 for the McCourt fund.

New London's Lyman Allyn Art museum established a garden to honor the memories of

Juliana and Ruth. The McCourt memorial garden according to David serves as a “metaphor for seasons and renewal and healing for those who are left behind.” David spoke powerfully at the 10 year commemorative event held at the McCourt memorial garden.

Mr. McCourt passed away on July 11 after a courageous battle with metastatic melanoma. He leaves behind his current wife, Mary Bryant McCourt, his four children, and nine grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of David McCourt, and sharing our condolences with the family he leaves behind.

HONORING BILL AND VERDA DAY

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Bill and Verda Day of Harrisonville, Missouri who are celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary. Bill and Verda are a tower of strength, support, understanding and love for their family—children Russ (Ann), Dave (Karen), Steve (Vicki), and Al (Dixie); nine grandchildren (one deceased); and 17 great-grandchildren.

Bill and Verda met while students at University of Missouri, and have always lived with great dignity and genuine grace, always demonstrating a deep and continuing concern for human values and ideals, and inspiring others to do the same. Verda was the Harrisonville City Clerk for 24 years, from 1963 to 1987. Bill taught high school vocational agriculture for 23 years and was a Farm Bureau Insurance agent in Harrisonville for 20 years. They have been wonderful leaders in the community and have made a tangible impact on Harrisonville through their involvement in church and civic organizations.

This meaningful occasion is the result of the love and hard work that this couple has invested in their marriage. Bill and Verda have touched the lives of their family and many friends through the shining example of their marriage, which is a testament to the devotion and admiration that they possess for one another.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Bill and Verda Day in the celebration of their 70th Wedding Anniversary, and extend to them best wishes for their future happiness.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN
WAR ARMISTICE**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 60th anniversary of the July 27, 1953 signing of the Armistice Agreement that temporarily halted the active combat of the Korean War. Today, the Korean War still continues in the form of threats, military exercises, periodic flare-ups, sanctions, and the build-up of armaments on both sides. Earlier this year,

military tensions on the Korean peninsula dangerously escalated.

The preamble to the 1953 Armistice Agreement, which was signed by the United States, North Korea, and China, states that its ultimate purpose was to stop “the Korean conflict, with its great toll of suffering and bloodshed on both sides, and . . . [to] insure a complete cessation of hostilities and of all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peace settlement is achieved.” Intended only as a temporary measure, the Armistice Agreement was meant to be replaced with a permanent peace accord.

Sixty years later, however, the United States spends billions of dollars per year to maintain its military presence in South Korea, one of the top ten global economies. At a time when many Americans struggle to pay their bills, vital U.S. dollars are directed into further militarizing the Korean peninsula. Moreover, the Korean peninsula remains tragically divided and millions of Korean and Korean American families remain separated from their loved ones. Korean Americans who were direct witness to the war's devastation are now reaching their seventies and eighties. It is high time to recognize the human costs of ongoing war and to offer genuine hope to Korean Americans who yearn for a long overdue end to this war. We must honor them and all those who fought in the war, including our own Korean War veterans, by replacing hostilities with genuine peace within their lifetimes.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that this somber milestone can serve as a call to action for us in Congress to do our part to de-escalate tensions and to work towards the establishment of a permanent and stable peace regime on the Korean peninsula. Peace negotiations between the United States, South Korea, North Korea, and all relevant parties are the only way forward.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RULE GOV-
ERNING DEBATE ON H.R. 2668,
THE “FAIRNESS FOR AMERICAN
FAMILIES ACT”**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Rule and the underlying legislation because this bill would delay the implementation of the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act until 2014.

This bill is about avoiding personal responsibility for persons who could afford health insurance but decide not to purchase it. When people arrive at emergency rooms without health care insurance, they are not turned away, but receive treatment. The cost of this care is often much higher than if a patient visits a doctor early to address health issues rather than wait and go to an emergency room for care. Persons with health insurance avoid going to the doctor out of fear of what it will cost that concern can be eliminated by getting health care insurance or coverage.

This bill is another attempt by the House Republican majority to frustrate the successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Their effort to increase the burden on individuals who take personal responsibility and exercise choice in purchasing their own health

care insurance should not be encouraged by our actions. This bill will assure that those individuals who can pay for their health care insurance do so. If they do not purchase health insurance when they had the means to, then a fee will be assessed that they will be used to cover health care expenses.

Everyone must act responsibly in making the Affordable Health Care Act work and that includes every member of the Congress.

In my state:

27.6% of Texans are without health care coverage.

In my district over the weekend, I held a press conference to congratulate Community Health Centers in the City of Houston who received part of \$9 million awarded to the State by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Grants to Community Health Centers will work to enroll the uninsured in new health coverage options made available under the Affordable Care Act—or Obama Care Act.

Community Health Care Centers will ensure that even the poorest of our citizens take personal responsibility to acquire health insurance coverage as long as we as members of Congress do our jobs and let our constituents know about these health care options.

Today, Community Health Centers care for over 22 million people nationally. The funding provided by these Department of Health and Human Services grants will mean that millions more will have access to health care and health insurance.

In 2012, 50 million people in the United States had no health insurance coverage, with many losing insurance as a result of the recent recession. The grants provided to Community Health Care Centers will help millions of uninsured people in our nation get the medical care they need and deserve.

LIST OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AWARDED FUNDS
IN THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Fourth Ward Clinic, \$124,395;
El Centro Del Corazon, \$144,525;
Houston Community Health Care, \$90,691;
South Central Houston Community,
\$165,755;
Asian American Health Coalition of the
Greater Houston Area, \$90,867;
Spring Branch Community Health Center,
\$108,346;
Houston Area Community Services,
\$73,981;

Legacy Community Health Services,
\$267,747;

Health Care for the Homeless, \$104,000;
Harris County Hospital District, \$154,326;

STATISTICS ON THE 18TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT,
NATION AND STATE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Affordable Care Act Benefits to the 18th
Congressional District:

11,400 young adults have insurance through
their parents;

4,100 seniors received \$5.4 million in discounts for prescription medication and average of \$600 per person. This was a cost savings of \$650 on average and so far in 2013 the savings are \$1,040;

71,000 seniors are now eligible for Medicare prevention services without paying co-pays;

121,000 individuals, including 23,000 children and 50,000 women now have health insurance that prevent insurance companies from spending more than 20% of their premium dollars on profits and administrative overhead;

46,000 children with pre-existing illnesses can no longer be denied insurance;

153,000 people in my district have health insurance that have no lifetime limits on their coverage and will not face annual limits;

Up to 193,000 people in the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas will have access to quality health affordable health care without fear of discrimination or higher rates because of preexisting health conditions;

17,000 individuals who purchase insurance on the private health insurance market established for individuals or small groups will have access to more secure, higher quality coverage and many will have access to financial assistance.

NATIONAL BENEFIT OF OBAMA CARE

13 million Americans received \$1.1 billion in rebates from their health insurance companies last year;

105 million Americans have free preventive services;

Millions of women now have free coverage for comprehensive women's preventive medical services;

100 million Americans no longer have a lifetime limit on healthcare coverage;

17 million children with pre-existing conditions can no longer be denied coverage by insurers;

6.6 million young-adults up to age 26 can stay on their parents' health insurance plans;

6.3 million Seniors in the "donut hole" have saved \$6.1 billion on their prescription drugs;

3.2 million Seniors have access to free annual wellness visits under Medicare; and

360,000 Small Businesses are using the Health Care Tax Credit to help them provide health insurance to their workers.

STATISTICS ON TEXAS AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

3.8 million Texas residents receive preventive care services;

7 million Texans no longer have lifetime limits on their healthcare insurance;

300,731 young adults can remain on their parents' health insurance until age 26;

5 million Texas residents can receive a rebate check from their insurance company if it does not spend 80 percent of premium dollars on healthcare;

4,029 people with pre-existing conditions now have health insurance;

In 2014, Insurance companies will be banned from:

discriminating against anyone with a pre-existing condition;

charging higher rates based on gender or health status;

enforcing lifetime dollar limits;

enforcing annual dollar limits on health benefits.

The healthcare law has many benefits.

For these reasons, I urge my Colleagues to join me in voting no on the rule for this bad bill.

The House and the Senate have real work to do such as creating jobs and strengthening food security for our most vulnerable—children, the elderly, the disabled and low-wage workers. We need to address immigration reform and Border Security, responsible gun safety measures, equity in our judicial system and voting rights.

We should also focus on the need to pass appropriations bills that eliminate Sequestration that is strangling the financial security of millions of federal workers. Sequestration not only hurts federal workers, but the local economies that no longer have the incomes provided by federal agencies to stimulate the recovery our nation is now entering are.

I urge the rejection of this rule.