

TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE TO QUALIFY HOMELESS YOUTH AND VETERANS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce bipartisan legislation that will fix an error and enable homeless veterans and youth to pursue full time education while living in Low Income Housing Tax Credit financed housing.

Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) have been a crucial foundation to incentivize the building of affordable low income housing. LIHTC housing has been invaluable in providing much needed shelter for those living in poverty or on the streets.

Unfortunately, a provision in the law is having unintended consequences. Currently, a homeless veteran or youth that wishes to pursue full time education must choose between an education and living in LIHTC housing. This is not a choice they should be forced to make, nor is this a policy America has ever supported.

Education is the cornerstone of American excellence and ingenuity and remains the best means to escape poverty. It is critical that we fix this defect in the law, and ensure that our youth are given every opportunity to reach their educational goals.

IN SUPPORT OF WORLD ALZHEIMER'S MONTH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Alzheimer's Association and their efforts to end Alzheimer's disease.

My mother-in-law battled this illness, so my wife and I can speak from experience, and tell you first-hand, the devastating stages of the disease and its effects on family and friends.

This progressive, dementia disorder affects more than 4 million people nationwide and will affect as many as 14 million individuals by 2050.

Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer's but researchers and organizations like the Alzheimer's Association are working together on treatments and hopefully, one day a cure.

I encourage you all to "GO Purple" to raise awareness and show your support to end Alzheimer's.

HONORING DIANA NYAD'S TRIUMPHANT SWIM FROM CUBA TO KEY WEST

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valiant, devoted woman. At age

64, Diana Nyad navigated the Florida Straits—a treacherous body of water between Cuba and Florida. However, Diana's journey wasn't accomplished by vessel; instead, she swam . . . 110 miles . . . without a shark cage.

Despite several failed attempts at accomplishing her goal, her passion, perseverance, and persistence never faltered. As the first person to accomplish this astonishing feat, Diana's display of tenacity and enterprise is worthy of acclaim.

Ms. Nyad's triumph is a true testament of the human spirit and an embodiment of the "anything is possible" philosophy. Her mantra, "find a way", is one elicited by a true role model.

I commend Ms. Nyad for her achievement, as she serves as an example to us all.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

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

Today, it is \$16,738,482,606,783.04. We've added \$6,111,605,557,869.96 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT NAVID GARSHASB

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Master Sergeant Navid Garshasb who passed away on September 4 after a long battle with brain cancer. Master Sergeant Garshasb was a proud resident of Navarre, Florida where he retired from the United States Air Force after courageously serving our Nation with honor and distinction.

Born in Shiraz, Iran, Master Sergeant Garshasb moved to the United States at the age of 12 and joined the Air Force eight years later. He started his military career as a member of the 834th Civil Engineering Squadron at Hurlburt Field. In the years to come, he would be stationed at bases in Michigan and Louisiana and even served on the Bossier City Police Department Reserve Officer Unit in Louisiana where he was named Reserve Officer of the Year.

Master Sergeant Garshasb realized his true calling when he returned to Hurlburt Field to serve as an Airborne Cryptologic Linguist with the 25th Intelligence Squadron. He used his fluency in six languages to assist the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, and soon thereafter he was on his way to Afghanistan. In November 2001, after his aircraft crash landed on an embankment in Afghanistan, he helped save the lives

of his fellow crewmembers by using his knowledge of languages native to the region. For his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and the Air Force Sergeants Association William H. Pitsenbarger Heroism Award, which recognizes the heroic acts of an enlisted member who saved a life or prevented serious injury. Master Sergeant Garshasb's actions throughout his career earned him numerous additional awards which further highlight his exemplary service to this Nation, and I am proud that he called Northwest Florida home.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life and service of Master Sergeant Navid Garshasb. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our most sincere condolences to Master Sergeant Garshasb's wife, Joani; their sons, Shahine and Andrew; and their entire family. He will truly be missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

THE FAIRNESS FOR BENEFICIARIES ACT OF 2013

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fairness for Beneficiaries Act of 2013.

Before Medicare beneficiaries can access skilled nursing facility ("SNF") care, they must have a preceding three (3) day inpatient stay at a hospital. Historically, this made sense. The goal was to ensure the use of SNF care was limited to certain circumstances where such care was medically necessary. The relatively arbitrary 3-day requirement was acceptable; medical developments and technology were such that beneficiaries usually would need 3 days of inpatient care prior to accessing SNF care.

I contend that times have changed. First, many Medicare beneficiaries are simply not medically appropriate for inpatient stays; they require direct admission to a SNF. Thus, the 3 day stay requirement imposes a burden—both physical and financial. We know inpatients can often acquire healthcare-associated infections ("HAIs") during their stay at a hospital. The potential for beneficiaries who may have compromised immune systems to acquire an HAI is substantially higher, compared with the rest of the population. One recent estimate projects the annual direct cost of HAIs to United States hospitals at \$28.4 to \$45 billion. Some of this financial burden could be avoided potentially if beneficiaries could bypass the inpatient setting and go directly to a SNF, when a physician certifies that SNF care is appropriate.

There is another reason that this legislation is of critical importance. The use of observation status by physicians has caused a substantial burden for patients. Medicare beneficiaries may go to a SNF thinking that because they had been sitting in a hospital bed for 3 days, that their SNF care would be paid for by Medicare—only to find that this is not the case because 1 or 2 of the days that they spent at the hospital were spent in observation status. Such patients are hit with substantial financial liability time and time again when they access

SNF care. This issue has directly affected my constituents and I am seeking to put an end to this problem by eliminating the requirement for a 3 day stay prior to beneficiaries accessing SNF care.

Finally, I recognize that some critics may say there is a substantial cost to this legislation and that the cost to the Medicare program is simply too great. I believe that some of the cost associated with this legislation could be offset. First, as described above, there is a potential savings in reducing some HALs that Medicare beneficiaries acquire during the inpatient stay since the beneficiaries can now go straight to a SNF when medically indicated. Second, I note that there will be a decrease in the use of inpatient hospitals by this population when beneficiaries are ready to go straight to a SNF. Third, I note that beneficiaries deserve the best care that we can afford to them. As such, the right policy in this regard is to allow them to access SNF care where medically appropriate as certified by a physician. Finally, the legislation contains certain protections to protect against fraud, waste and abuse in the Medicare program relative to this benefit. First, a physician certification continues to be required prior to a beneficiary being able to access SNF services. Second, the legislation requires CMS to develop uniform requirements that will allow CMS and its contractors to audit to ensure that SNF care is appropriate.

For all of these reasons, the Fairness for Beneficiaries Act of 2013 is the right thing to do. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

REMEMBERING CHARLES WILLIAM "BILL" MALONEY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Charles William "Bill" Maloney and thank him for his service to country and community.

On September 6, with his loved ones at his side, Bill passed away peacefully at the age of 91.

A native of Kansas, Bill was surrounded by aviation from an early age. This would eventually influence his life long career in aviation. He entered the Army Air Corps during World War Two and flew C47 aircraft missions in the Pacific theater. After the war, he returned to the mainland and earned his undergraduate degree from Washburn University and then moved to Marietta, Georgia in 1952. There, he began a 36-year long career with Lockheed Martin. He would later graduate from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School in 1957.

Bill was a role model and community leader. He took pride in civic service and served on—and chaired—the Kennestone Hospital Board of Authority, the Marietta City Zoning Board, and the Marietta School Board. Furthermore, he was an active parishioner at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, where he and his wife, Dorothy, actively volunteered regularly.

His colleagues and friends will always remember Bill as someone who took pride in his profession, cared deeply about his community, loved his family, and enjoyed golfing with his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Bill's children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren for their loss. It saddens me to know that the world is missing an honorable and dedicated man, but I am humbled to know that he is now in a better place.

HONORING JEFFREY MATTISON FOR HIS LIFETIME DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeffrey Mattison of Franklin Township, New Jersey for his distinguished tenure as the Executive Director of The Arc of Hunterdon County. The Arc of Hunterdon County is a non-profit agency dedicated to helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Under Jeff's leadership The Arc has expanded to now provide permanent residences to more than 100 individuals and additional services to daily residents and family members. Jeff's service included 12 years on the board shaping the direction of the organization. Jeff has also enjoyed a 28-year career in commercial lending, working for several Hunterdon County community banks.

Jeff's commitment to community service is also highlighted by his leadership roles with the New Jersey Bankers Association, Builders Association of Northwest New Jersey, Rotary Club of Flemington and the United Way of Hunterdon County. I congratulate Jeff for being recognized by the Raritan Township Republican Club with its Outstanding Community Service Award.

LETTER TO FBI DIRECTOR COMEY ON NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT FINDING FBI FIELD OFFICES VIOLATED PGLICY PROHIBITING NON-INVESTIGATIVE COOPERATION WITH CAIR

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the letter I sent to FBI Director James Comey today in response to troubling findings in a new report by the Justice Department's Inspector General (IG) detailing repeated violations by FBI field offices with regard to the bureau's longstanding policy prohibiting non-investigative cooperation with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). I requested this investigation two years ago after learning of some of these violations.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 19, 2013.

Hon. JAMES COMEY,

*Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR DIRECTOR COMEY: Two years ago, I wrote the Justice Department's Office of the Inspector General requesting an investigation into FBI field office compliance with the bureau's 2008 policy prohibiting non-in-

vestigative cooperation with the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). I was deeply concerned to learn of multiple occasions when several FBI field offices had continued to work with CAR despite the clear policy issued by the bureau.

This policy was initially implemented after CAIR was identified as an undicted coconspirator in the trial of the Holy Land Foundation which, according to a Justice Department press release issued May 27, 2009, reported that "U.S. District Judge Jorge A. Solis sentenced the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF) and five of its leaders following their convictions by a federal jury in November 2008 on charges of providing material support to Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization." The sentences ranged from 15 years to 65 years in prison. The release continued: "From its inception, HLF existed to support llamas. . . . The government's case included testimony that in the early 1990's, Hamas' parent organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, planned to establish a network of organizations in the U.S. to spread a militant Islamist message and raise money for llamas. . . . The defendants sent HLF-raised funds to Hamas-controlled zakat committees and charitable societies in the West Bank and Gaza."

Today, the department's inspector general, Michael Horowitz, released his final report, Review of FBI Interactions with the Council on American-Islamic Relations, which confirms the blatant disregard of bureau policy as well as multiple enacted Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations reports with respect to interactions by the FBI with CAIR. Despite repeated efforts to communicate the policy to the field, this was undermined by conflicting guidance being inexplicably offered by the bureau's Office of Public Affairs as well as by outright violations from several field offices.

Specifically, the OIG report found that the former Special Agents-in-Charge (SAC) of the Chicago, Illinois, Los Angeles, California, and New Haven, Connecticut field offices violated the department's policy, despite numerous electronic communications articulating the policy as well as a mandatory meeting held in November 2008 with all SACs and Assistant Directors-in-Charge to communicate the policy in person. There should have been no confusion about this policy given the bureau guidance, Congressional direction and media coverage surrounding this directive.

Despite this direction, the OIG report makes clear that the leadership of several field offices knowingly ignored or selectively applied the policy to suit their interests. In one case documented in the report, the SAC of the LA field office wrote an e-mail to his staff explicitly noting: "Please instruct your folks at this time that they are not to abide by the [October 24, 2008, Electronic Communication from the REDACTED], but that their direction in regards to CAIR will come from the LA Field Office front office." This is unacceptable and insubordinate behavior from a senior leader of the FBI.

What concerns me even more is that the OIG only reviewed five instances of reported violations of the policy, which could represent only a fraction of the overall number of violations that may have taken place at other field offices. The findings in the report suggest that the FBI may have a systemic problem with the violation of this important policy and does not reflect well on the bureau's compliance with other policies.

This documented failure to abide by FBI direction is intolerable. I ask that you immediately take action to ensure such a failure in policy coordination and management is not repeated, and advise me what specific actions you are taking to ensure FBI policy