

currently headed by the Honorable Michael N. Cook, President, Thomas B. Cannady, First Vice President, Joe Rosenstengel, Second Vice President, Laura K. Beasley, Secretary and Garrett P. Hoerner, Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the St. Clair County Bar Association on their 50th Anniversary and to wish them the very best in the future.

PRESERVING THE WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENT AND TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, in addition to Chairman CAMP's arguments against the Motion to Recommit, the following are additional reasons for opposing this motion.

1. Totally unnecessary and obviously political. The States already have complete flexibility to decide which needy families with children to cover. So States can and should place a priority on the groups the MTR specified—the unemployed, veterans, victims of violence, grandparents, as well as anyone caring for children with financial need. Democrats argued in the general debate on H.R. 890 that States should be trusted when it comes to the work requirements and that States should have virtually unlimited flexibility in implementing them. Why do they think in their MTR that States cannot be trusted when it comes to the even more elemental issue of whom to cover with TANF assistance? The answer is the MTR is an obviously political statement in search of a problem.

2. Potentially harmful. Current law includes a broad provision allowing States to screen for and identify victims of domestic violence and then create special programs and services designed to address their needs, such as waiving time limits, child support cooperation and related requirements as appropriate. Many States have done so. The MTR, coming afterward, suggests that “Nothing in this Act shall prohibit or limit” States from “providing assistance, job opportunities, or educational training” for “women who are victims of domestic violence.” Why is this necessary? Are the current law protections applied by States, which would be extended for nine months under H.R. 890, not sufficient? Are States implementing them poorly or not at all? The MTR does not say. But given that the current protections afforded by States may be broader than the short list of protections in the MTR, is the MTR supposed to be limiting on States in terms of how and what they provide in terms of special help for such individuals? Again, the MTR does not say, creating confusion and potentially narrowing protections for a sensitive group.

3. Restoring the individual entitlement to welfare benefits—regardless of income? The MTR suggests a fundamental change in the nature of the TANF program. States must now spend TANF funds on “needy” families with children, with States defining financial need. However, the MTR suggests that “Nothing in this Act” (which if added to the underlying bill would mean effectively the TANF program)

“shall prohibit or limit” States from providing “assistance” to “unemployed parents” or “grandparents” caring for the children of individuals in, or who died while serving in, the Armed Forces. It does not State that such adults and families must be “needy.” While many of these families will no doubt be “needy” by States’ definition, not all will be. Yet the MTR says that all must receive “assistance” (which generally means a welfare check) from the TANF program. Is it really the intention of the authors of the MTR to require the payment of welfare checks to families that are not “needy”? This smacks of a return to the pre-TANF era when there was an individual entitlement to welfare benefits in Federal law, which was a key impediment to States’ engaging low-income families in work and productive activities needed to help them support themselves. Even worse, especially given the capped nature of TANF funds, requiring States to provide welfare checks to households in which one parent may be unemployed, for example, while the other works full-time in a high-paying job, would certainly diminish funds available to assist truly needy families with children.

4. Points to other key flaws in the Administration’s waiver proposal. When Ways and Means staff reviewed HHS internal documents about their waiver plan on February 8, 2013, one of the key findings was that HHS staff has long believed the Secretary has the authority not only to waive work requirements for welfare recipients, but also other key program features like time limits and even the requirement that States must limit TANF benefits to families that include children. Yet the MTR, whose supporters argued in support of the Administration’s waiver authority, lists supposed protections for parents and grandparents caring for children. Which begs the question—do supporters of the Administration’s waiver authority and MTR want to allow States to pay welfare checks to single adults without children, as the Administration believes it has the authority to do? Or do they think that TANF assistance should continue to be payable only to families with children, as current law provides and the MTR seems to suggest?

BETINA PIETERSE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Betina Pieterse for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Betina Pieterse is a 12th grader at Wheat Ridge High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Betina Pieterse 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 Betina Pieterse for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of her future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAQ WAR

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House to observe a moment of somber remembrance for the 10th anniversary of the start of the Iraq War. On March 19, 2003, the U.S. Armed Forces invaded Iraq in what would become one of the most drawn-out missions in our military’s history—a mission that would end in more than 4,000 fatalities and 31,000 wounded.

All too often, these brave men and women risk their lives to serve our country, only to return home to face a different type of battle—a battle to receive the care and benefits that they deserve.

Earlier this month, in a commitment to provide high-quality healthcare to our veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs opened a new Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Joliet, Illinois. As part of the Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital, the 60,000 square foot facility will offer state-of-the-art healthcare, providing a variety of services including: primary care, physical, occupational, and speech therapies, health education, mental health treatment, women’s healthcare, nutrition, and retinal imaging.

With more than 5,000 veterans already signed up to receive treatment at the Joliet Clinic, the facility will go a long way toward providing the healthcare that our men and women in uniform deserve. I am proud to have the Edward Hines Jr. Veterans Hospital Outpatient Clinic serving our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to not only join me in remembering those who lost their lives serving our great nation, but to also recognize and thank those veterans who have returned home after defending our country bravely and honorably.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2013

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the third anniversary of the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, March 23, 2013, which, among other things, expands eligibility for Medicaid to reduce the number of Americans without health insurance, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2013 today to increase the federal government’s reimbursement for the District of Columbia’s Medicaid costs from 70 to 75 percent. Medicaid is financed mostly by the federal government and the states. However, the District, a city that has no state to support it, must alone absorb the state portion of Medicaid. For example, the District pays for 30 percent of Medicaid. New York City pays less than 25 percent, since a

2005 state law reduced its contribution from 25 percent. The District certainly should pay no more than New York City's pre-2005 contribution and therefore my bill would raise the federal contribution to the District's Medicaid program to 75 percent. Considering the expansion of Medicaid eligibility under the new health care reform law, effective 2014, now is the time to make the District's Medicaid burden more equitable.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Revitalization Act), Congress recognized that state costs are too high for any city to shoulder. To address this unfairness to the District, the Revitalization Act transferred certain state responsibilities from the District to the federal government, including prisons and courts, and increased the federal Medicaid reimbursement to the District from 50 to 70 percent, partially relieving this burden. The city continues to carry many state costs, however.

In 1997, a formula error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital allotment reduced the 70 percent Federal Medical Assistance Percentage share, and, as a result, the District received only \$23 million instead of the \$49 million it was due. I was able to secure a technical correction in the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to \$32 million from fiscal year 2000 forward. I appreciate that in 2005, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of \$20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing DC's Medicaid reimbursements to \$57 million as intended by the Revitalization Act. However, this amount did not reimburse the District for the years the federal error denied the city part of its federal contribution, and, in any case, of course, was not intended to eliminate the District's structural deficit, which this bill partially addresses.

The bill is part of my series of bills for equal treatment of DC. The series of bills addresses inappropriate and often unequal restrictions placed only on the District, and no other U.S. jurisdiction.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the bill.

ANDREW RABBITT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Andrew Rabbitt for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Andrew Rabbitt is an 8th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Andrew Rabbitt 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 life.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Andrew Rabbitt 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 of his future accomplishments.

HONORING CONNECTICUT'S PERMANENT COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join the many who have gathered in Connecticut's capitol to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. Formed under Connecticut statute and charged with a mission to study and improve Connecticut women's economic security, health and safety; promote consideration of qualified women to leadership positions; and to work toward the elimination of gender discrimination, the PCSW is our state's leading force for women's equality.

Women, in the workplace and in our society, have come a long way since the women's suffrage movement in the 19th century and the women's rights movement of the 20th century, during which time the PCSW was first established. Today, ninety-seven women serve in the two Houses of the United States Congress and thousands serve at the state and municipal levels as well. In fact, in Connecticut, women hold fifty-five seats in the General Assembly and half of the Constitutional offices. Women own their own businesses and are leading some of the largest corporations in the world. And yet women still face a myriad of obstacles in our society. Women still make seventy-seven cents to every dollar earned by a man in comparable positions and there is still a stigma attached to women in the workforce—employers still concerned about women who may have children or are thinking about starting a family and how those choices may impact their job performance or attendance. Women statistically live longer than men yet they have less retirement security, until very recently health research did not take into consideration the basic biological differences between men and women, and sexual harassment and discrimination continue to persist in a variety of forms.

The PCSW, through policy research as well as education and awareness programs, has helped to shape the debate around these and many other issues impacting the lives of Connecticut women and create public policy that makes a difference. The PCSW has had a leadership role in advancing legislation in Connecticut to prohibit sex discrimination in credit transactions, create the first family and medical leave protections in the country, and require health insurance plans to cover a minimum of forty-eight hours hospital stay for normal childbirth and ninety-six for caesarian sections. Each of these efforts now stand as law in Connecticut and have acted as a model for legislation in other states as well as at the federal level.

Under the outstanding leadership of Executive Director Teresa Younger, the PCSW is continuing in its strong tradition of ensuring that issues that impact women and their families are at the forefront of Connecticut's public policy discussions. I have spent much of my time in Congress focused on these issues and have often turned to the PCSW for guidance and support. It is with great pride and my

deepest thanks that I rise today to congratulate them on their 40th Anniversary and wish them all the best for continued success.

RECOGNIZING SANDY FEINBERG

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding resident of New York's 1st Congressional District, Sandy Feinberg.

In 1971, Sandy began her career at the Middle Country Public Library as a children's librarian. This position would lead to a forty-two year career as one of the most innovative and influential librarians on Long Island. She was named the Library Director in 1991 in recognition of her hard work and vision, a position she would hold for the next 22 years.

As Library Director, Sandy oversaw the expansion and renovation of two library locations. In 1999, she oversaw the transformation of the library's Centereach location into the largest public library on Long Island. Today, through innovative programs and extraordinary effort, it is not only the largest, but the busiest public library on Long Island.

As a pioneer in library-community interaction, she founded the Family Place Libraries initiative. This comprehensive library-based early childhood and family support program has been replicated in more than 350 libraries in 24 states.

Sandy continued the library's advancement by overseeing the opening of the Miller Business Resource Center, a regional resource to promote economic development through small businesses, entrepreneurs, and not-for-profit organizations. She also founded the Museum Corner, an interactive exhibit space with rotating hands-on educational exhibits for children. Finally, she created the Nature Explorium, a first-in-the-nation library-based outdoor learning space where children can learn about nature.

Sandy has also focused her attention on those in need outside of the library. She established the Community Resource Database, a collection of not-for-profit and government agencies available to assist residents in need. Eventually, the database would become Long Island 211, a telephone service center to connect those in need with available resources.

She served as President of the Middle Country Chamber of Commerce and was a founding member of the Middle Country Coalition for Smart Growth. She served on the boards of the Child Care Council of Suffolk County and the Long Island Museum of Art, and is currently the Chairwoman of the Board of the Early Years Institute.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the residents of New York's 1st Congressional District, I thank Sandy Feinberg for her years of dedicated service to our community. Her passion and enthusiasm for nurturing young minds has had a positive impact on countless families. Her willingness to initiate new tasks and challenges is an inspiration to us all. While her phenomenal leadership and ingenuity will surely be missed, her imprint on the community will endure for years to come.