

the controversial anti-conversion Bill passed by the Chhattisgarh Assembly in 2006. The Dharma Swatantraya Adhiniyam Act, 2006, brought by BJP's Raman Singh government in the state says the return of a person to his ancestor's religion or own original religion shall not be construed as "conversion." The Bill also says that a district magistrate will have to be intimated 30 days prior to the conversion and he will be the final authority on the subject.

PUNJAB (21ST DECEMBER 2014)

In media reports, the RSS and its affiliates claimed that they are engaged in a massive reconversion or "ghar wapsi" programme to get Christians back—not just to Hinduism, but also to Sikhism, in Punjab. The organizations claim to have helped some 8,000 people 'return home' in the last three years, some 3,500 of them over the last one year.

DELHIM (21ST DECEMBER 2014)

RSS announced that it will organize a reconversion rally at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on Christmas day with at least 25000 people in attendance.

KHARGONE, MADHYA PRADESH (24TH DECEMBER 2014)

A Christian couple, Wilson and Rashmita, was taken into custody under the state's anti-conversion law from a village near district headquarters Khargone, Madhya Pradesh. The couple were a part of a Christmas program held on 24th December at Nayanagar, about 28 kilometres from Khargone, where they live. Members of a Hindu group who alleged conversions disrupted the Christmas program and called the police who then arrested the couple. According to local sources, the Hindu groups produced false witnesses against the couple alleging that they had offered 5000 Rupees every month to a woman if she converts to Christianity.

UJJAIN, MADHYA PRADESH (24TH DECEMBER 2014)

Akash Sisodia from Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh was attacked by members of the Bajrang Dal while he was leading a Christmas prayer service in Ujjain Madhya Pradesh. According to reports, the Bajrang Dal people who were accompanied by the police and media people produced false witnesses and got Sisodia arrested. He was kept in custody for three days before being released, as charges against him could not be substantiated.

UTTAR PRADESH (25TH DECEMBER 2014)

Seven people including two pastors were arrested on Christmas day from Urai, Raibareily and Kushinagar areas of Uttar Pradesh. The Christians were arrested on after BJP members complained of forcible conversions. However according to media reports no such conversions could be verified.

BARLOI, MAU, UTTAR PRADESH (25TH DECEMBER 2014)

Police stopped a Christmas function in Barloj village of Uttar Pradesh following objections by Hindu groups. Local BJP leader Dr. Alka Roy was also accompanying the police as they forced the Christians to stop the Christmas function.

MAINPURI, UTTAR PRADESH (25TH DECEMBER 2014)

Police in Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, stopped a Christmas celebration following complaints by Hindu groups alleging conversions. However according to media reports, no evidence of any conversion was found after investigation. The Christmas celebrations were organized at the home of one Shankar Lal Verma in Kharanjeet Nagar, Mainpuri. After Hindu groups complained the police reached the spot, stopped the celebrations, dispersed the gathered people and

arrested Shankar Lal. He was later released as the charges against him were not proved true.

KHANDWA, MADHYA PRADESH (26TH DECEMBER 2014)

Christians were attacked during a Christmas celebration in village Coloni near Khandwa. The mob cornered the Christians just about they were going to have lunch and threw stones at them. Later the police came and arrested 13 Christians including three very young children, 8 months, 4 years and 7 years and took them to Borgaon police station where they were charged under IP 295 A. The Christians including the children were in police custody till 31st December 2014 till their bail was secured. Earlier Hindu groups in the district court also roughed up a lawyer who appeared for the Christians. The groups told the lawyer to get off the case and not represent the Christians anymore.

VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH (27TH DECEMBER 2014)

Police arrested Pastor Ashok Prajapati from Varanasi following allegations of forcible conversions. According to reports, Hindu groups as well as the police threatened him and asked him to stop holding prayer meetings in the area. He was released in the evening the same day.

AMETHI, UTTAR PRADESH (27TH DECEMBER 2014)

BJP leaders and Bajrang Dal people threatened Pastor Ramchand from Amethi, Uttar Pradesh of dire consequences if he carries on with worship services in the area. The pastor left the village keeping in mind his own security and has approached the local police for protection.

ALLAHABAD, UTTAR PRADESH (27TH DECEMBER 2014)

More than 25 members of the Youth wing of the BJP and other Hindu groups stormed into the Sam Higginbottom university alleging conversions. The attackers tore banners with Bible verses written on them, shouted anti-Christian slogans, burnt the effigy of the vice chancellor of the University, Dr. R B Lall, and entered into a fight with the security personnel. Two of them were caught and handed over to the police.

GAYA, BIHAR (28TH DECEMBER 2014)

Christians in Gaya, Bihar sought police protection after several outfits of the Hindu right-wing threatened them of dire consequences if they do not convert to Hinduism. In a petition containing two pages of signatures, given to the police, the Christians accused the VHP, the RSS and the Bajrang Dal of indulging in intimidation and force.

INDORE, MADHYA PRADESH (28TH DECEMBER 2014)

Hindu extremist groups forcibly took two Catholic missionaries to police station after disrupting an interfaith meeting organized at the Geeta Bhavan, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The activists of Bajrang Dal and Dharma Jagran Manch accused Father Prasad and Brother Sleeva of trying to convert Hindus to Christianity. They demanded that the police arrest the missionaries, after registering a First Information Report against them. The missionaries were however, let off as charges against them proved to be frivolous. The next day the Hindu groups proceeded to purify Geeta Bhavan by pouring milk and cow urine on the place where the missionaries had been participating in the interfaith meeting.

DEORIA, UTTAR PRADESH (28TH DECEMBER 2014)

Members of Hindu Yuva Vahini and the police disrupted a Christian worship service at Salempur, Deoria district, Uttar Pradesh. Jaswant Masih and his wife Suman, who have been conducting prayer services for

many years in their own home, were arrested and taken to the police station following complaints by the Hindu groups that the couple were involved in forcible conversions. Later, Police, denied any incident of conversion. "A Christian family has been organising prayers for past many years and people go there. It is just a matter of faith and nothing else," said inspector Ram Yadav.

#### HONORING FRED T. NOLAN

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, Mr. Fred T. Nolan, a native of Dyer, Tennessee, but raised in Paducah, Kentucky, and has lived in Jackson, Mississippi since his graduation from Tougaloo College in the early 1960s. One of his early career choices was teaching in the Jackson Public School District (JPS).

Mr. Nolan taught two years at the then Brinkley High School located on Livingston Road and was a ninth grade teacher of Social Studies and Mathematics. He left JPS to pursue other career options and worked briefly for the Urban League of Jackson as director. The majority of his career spanned 25 years as the executive director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, a division of Housing Urban Development (HUD).

After fully retiring from HUD in 1996, Mr. Nolan rejoined the JPS family as a substitute and limited service teacher. He worked three years in a limited service capacity at Siwell Middle, Lanier High, and Forest Hill High schools.

Mr. Fred Nolan is married to Mrs. Kisiah Nolan, a former JPS Board member and president. His son, Fredrick Nolan, is coordinator of the JPS WATCH D.O.G.S. program. The Nolans also have two daughters: Renee Nolan Johnson of Huntsville, Alabama, and Adrienne Nolan Colar of Smyrna, Georgia. All three of their children are graduates of the Jackson Public School District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Fred T. Nolan for his dedication to serving others.

IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 185, THE REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

#### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 26, 2015

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 185, the so-called "Regulatory Accountability Act."

Today's bill is yet another attempt by House Republicans to limit the ability of federal agencies to enforce commonsense rules and regulations. While supporters of this rehashed bill claim it is needed to curb overregulation, in reality, it would simply prevent federal agencies from doing their jobs and working to ensure there are safeguards in place to protect consumer health and safety. In fact, H.R. 185

would create more red tape by imposing over 60 new barriers in the federal rulemaking process.

One of the most burdensome provisions in this legislation requires agencies to conduct a cost-benefit analysis for all proposed rules and possible alternatives, even if the rule is limited in scope and has a minimal economic impact. Moreover, agencies would be obligated to adopt the option that was the least costly in the short term, without taking into account the long term impact and costs it would have on public health and safety. This is a myopic way to govern and would create paralysis within the rulemaking process.

President Obama has already implemented significant reforms to the rulemaking process. In January 2010, the President signed an Executive Order that required agencies to determine if the benefits of proposed rules are justified considering their cost to society. He required an interagency review of overlapping rules and regulation between agencies that may prevent innovation in the private sector and instituted a policy to allow agencies to consider input from affected public and private stakeholders and experts when developing rules and regulations. Moreover, federal agencies under President Obama issued significantly less rules during his first four years in office when compared to President Bush's first term.

At a time when Congress should be doing everything it can to create jobs and improve the economy, this bill is nothing but a distraction. I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

**RECOGNIZING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2015**

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 26, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it comes as no surprise that the 2015 theme for Catholic Schools Week is “Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.” As a man of faith and a graduate of Bishop Egan High School in Fairless Hills, I can tell you that both my wife Kathy and I have benefitted greatly from our value-centered Catholic upbringing. As have each of our six children—Katie, Maggie, Molly, Jimmy, Mick and Tommy.

In the 8th District of Pennsylvania, we have so many proud Catholic institutions to send our children to. The commitment of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to our local community

is unmatched. These local institutions have spent years building solid communities of faith and knowledge—all of which give back to the greater community in many ways. The rigorous academic curriculum, coupled with spiritual teachings of passion, kindness and respect, give our children the background they need to be upstanding citizens.

In the words of Pope Francis, “It is important not to turn in on ourselves, burying our own talent, our spiritual, intellectual, and material riches, everything that the Lord has given us, but, rather to open ourselves, to be supportive, to be attentive to others. Set your stakes on great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful. Life is not given to us to be jealously guarded for ourselves, but is given to us so that we may give it in turn.” Our Catholic School upbringing teaches us to be the best that we can be, and in turn, use the skills that we acquire to give back to the community. I truly value everything that our local Catholic Schools bring to our area, and I am honored to celebrate with you this week.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 26, 2015*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, due to being unavoidably detained I was unable to cast a vote for roll call vote 44. If I had been present I would have voted “NO”.

**TRIBUTE TO DUPONT PIONEER CRICK RESEARCH CENTER**

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 26, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the construction and subsequent opening of the DuPont Pioneer Crick Research Center in Johnston, Iowa.

The \$40 million DuPont Pioneer Crick Research Center, located in Johnston, Iowa, showcases the investment toward innovation, safety and stewardship of Pioneer agricultural products and contributing to global food security. The 180,000 square foot state-of-the-art research facility will be home to over 400 Pioneer employees, and includes 84,000 sq. ft. of laboratory space, 31 conference rooms, and

flexible, ergonomic work stations. The Crick Research Center features an on-site fitness center and cafeteria for employees.

I commend DuPont Pioneer and their staff for providing cutting edge agricultural services that help to improve yields and create a sustainable livelihood for farmers around the world. I urge my colleagues in the United States Congress to join me in congratulating DuPont Pioneer for their numerous achievements including the opening of the DuPont Pioneer Crick Research Center. I wish them and all of their employees the best of luck moving forward.

**RECOGNIZING MR. BOB GODSHALL**

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 26, 2015*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend of mine, Pennsylvania State Representative Bob Godshall for the 50 years of service he has given to our community, and the state of Pennsylvania. Representative Godshall has served 32 years in the Pennsylvania Legislature representing the 53rd District in Montgomery County, PA—an area which encompasses the Indian Valley portion of my Congressional District.

Prior to his work in the legislature, Bob served 3 years as Montgomery County Controller, and 17 years on the Souderton School Board. He also served 3 years as Montgomery County Open Space Director, where he helped bring Montgomery County's beautiful park system to fruition. Bob was also instrumental in the creation of the United States Constitution Center in Philadelphia—a place where thousands of visitors come to pay tribute to the founding fathers each year.

Aside from his many accomplishments, Bob has also been very kind, generous and supportive of me in my work representing the 8th Congressional District. In 2012, when I found out that my district would be taking on a new portion of Montgomery County, Bob was the first person I called. Everyone in the Indian Valley has a story about Representative Godshall, usually involving Bob “helping them, their family or their neighbor.” I've never met anyone more dedicated to his community and beloved by the people who live there.

Bob—it's been a pleasure working with you and getting to know you over the past few years. Thanks for everything you have done, and continue to do for our area.