Diego who works 45 hours a week and has limited sick and vacation time. Now, imagine she has an urgent medical problem requiring an ob-gyn visit. On Monday, she calls from work to make an appointment with her primary care physician. If she is lucky, she gets an appointment for the following morning. She takes time off Tuesday to go see her doctor. Her primary care doctor agrees she should be seen by her ob-gyn and gives her a referral. Tuesday afternoon she returns to work and calls her ob-gyn for an appointment. The doctor is in surgery on Wednesday, but they offer her an appointment on Friday morning. On Friday she takes another morning off from work and finally, after almost a week, gets the care she needs. The unnecessary referral process resulted in her taking an extra morning off work and delayed her proper medical care by 5 days. The patient, employer, primary care physician, and health plan provider would have saved money and time if the patient had been able to go directly to her ob-gyn.

The public overwhelmingly supports direct access to ob-gyn care. A survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University found that 82 percent support direct access legislation and 63 percent would support it even if their health insurance costs increased.

While serving in the California State Assembly, I heard from many women who experienced the same problems I have outlined today. After meeting with women, obstetricians and gynecologists, health plan representatives, and providers in the State of California, I wrote the state law allowing women direct access to their ob-gyn. That law was a good first step; however, it still does not cover women enrolled in self-insured, federally regulated health plans. This means that even if a woman lives in a state with direct access protections, like California, she may not be able to see her ob-gyn without a referral if she is covered by a federally regulated ERISA health plan.

I believe the time has come to make direct access to an ob-gyn a national standard.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, and all of my colleagues to pass this critical legislation into law.

WOMEN OF BURMA DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, June 19 marks the 60th birthday of Burma's Democracy Leader Aung San Suu Kyi. She has been held under house arrest since May 30, 2003—this is the third time since 1988 that the regime has confined Suu Kyi to house arrest for political reasons—after narrowly escaping an assassination attempt by Burma's ruling military regime in May of 2003. June 19 also marks the Women of Burma Day. In recognition of this day I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the courageous and honorable efforts made by Suu Kyi and other Burmese women who continue to struggle for democracy, human rights, and an end to brutal dictatorship in Burma.

Today, Burmese women are a driving force in the fight for freedom and democracy in Burma. They inspire us all in their courage to carry out non-violent activities, challenging the military regime's repressive and violent rule. Burmese women are struggling to save a homeland that continues to deteriorate under military dictatorship.

The military regime's response to non-violent political protestors has been abominable. Since winning the popular election by a landslide in 1988, supporters of democracy in Burma have been killed, arrested, imprisoned, and tortured by the thousands. Fearing certain imprisonment and death, many of these democracy supporters have fled the country.

I would like to honor ten Burmese women who have dedicated their lives to improving the health, welfare, and future of Burma's people. With unwavering commitment, these women have sought to address critical issues affecting the people of Burma. These honorees have been involved in a diverse range of activities in the arena of social welfare and democracy and human rights. Eight of the honorees, Daw Aye Aye Mar, Daw Hla Hla Moe, Ma Mi Suu Pwint, Ma Nilar Thein, Ma Su Su Nway, Ma Than Than Htay, Ma Tin Tin Myint and Ma Zinmar Aung have endeavored to continue the ongoing struggle for freedom, human rights, and democracy in Burma. Two of the honorees, Dr. Myint Myint Khin and Ma Than Myint Aung, are deeply involved in organizing and engaging in social welfare and education programs. Demonstrating a unifying commitment to the people of their country, these extraordinary women have pursued their life's work with courage and perseverance. In the course of their lives, many have served, or continue to serve, lengthy jail sentences dealt by Burma's repressive military regime. I request that we honor and show solidarity with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all of "2005 Profiles in Courage" honorees. We should celebrate their achievements, and honor their personal sacrifice and vision for the future of Burma.

Democracy will come to Burma soon. I believe that one day, the people of Burma will have a chance to openly honor these women and I am very sure that they will do so with great happiness. For the time being, they need our help, and we need to assist them consistently and strongly so that they will attain the goal to which they have been aspiring for so long.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF PANCAKES ON THE PLAZA

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Pancakes on the Plaza, an annual fundraising event hosted by the United Way of Santa Fe County in my home state of New Mexico. Pancakes on the Plaza not only raises money but brings people together as New Mexicans from all walks of life volunteer side-by-side to make a difference in Santa Fe County.

Each July 4 on the historic Santa Fe Plaza, hundreds of volunteers prepare and serve pancakes to thousands of attendees whose contributions to United Way directly benefit residents of Santa Fe County.

Pancakes on the Plaza has been held in Santa Fe each Fourth of July since 1975, building on traditional annual festivities that date back to the 1920's. The Santa Fe Plaza is an appropriate location for this event as it has historically been a multi-cultural gathering place highlighting the unique diversity within the Northern New Mexico community. Pancakes on the Plaza is a celebration of the American spirit of generosity, volunteerism and community-building that raises money to help foster independence for underserved individuals and families of Santa Fe County.

To pull off an event of this scale takes an enormous amount of collaboration: Three 15 by 60 foot tents for cooking and serving pancakes; twelve pancakes cooks per tent, flipping cakes on 12 stoves per tent; two batter transporters per tent, per shift; two tent captains per tent, per shift; six Army Reservists taking batter from refrigerated trucks to cook tents; twelve batter mixers; two ham and vegetarian sausage cooks per tent, per shift; four fruit, butter and syrup servers per tent, per shift; four beverage servers per tent, per shift to pour milk, juice and coffee; two milk and juice runners per tent, per shift to rush cold beverages from the trucks to the tents; three refrigerated truck workers per shift to relay ham, vegetarian sausage, juice, milk, butter and batter transporters; two ticket takers per tent, per shift; six stage crewmembers; twelve Girl Scouts to keep the Plaza and table neat and clean; eighteen crew members to set up and break down tents and stoves.

And, of course, a massive amount of goods comes together to serve 10,000 breakfasts: 2,500 pounds of pancake batter; 4,000 pints of milk (regular and chocolate); 300 gallons of fresh-squeezed juice; 100 pounds of locally-roasted gourmet coffee; 600 pounds of fruit; 300 pounds of butter; 3,000 pieces of vegetarian sausages; 1,000 pounds of ham; 14,000 place settings; 12,000 cups; 20,000 packets of sugar and artificial sweetener; 20,000 packets of syrup.

The United Way of Santa Fe County fulfills the mission of "creating lasting change in chronic community conditions" with events such as Pancakes on the Plaza which fund specific programs that target health, learning and self-sufficiency. Yet Pancakes on the Plaza is more than just a fundraiser, this event also features the diverse music, art and crafts unique to Northern New Mexico with many activities for children and families. Locals and visitors alike enjoy the annual July 4th United Way of Santa Fe County Pancakes on the Plaza.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that I have participated in Pancakes on the Plaza for several years now. This United Way event raises much needed money for social programs while building community, enhancing lives and creating opportunities in Santa Fe County. Northern New Mexico is a place rich in history and steeped in tradition and I am fortunate to be a part of such wonderful programs as Pancakes on the Plaza.

SECOND OPINION COVERAGE ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Second Opinion