

President and Founder of Teach for America, who was recently awarded the prestigious 2006 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education.

Ms. Kopp's steadfast commitment to education is evident in her deeds and actions for she truly embodies the ideal that a decent education is the key, not only to the acquisition of knowledge and skills, but also to building self-esteem. In short, education is the receptacle of hope and the door to the American dream.

Kopp's pursuit of educational excellence and equity led her in 1989 to propose the creation of Teach for America. She did this as her undergraduate senior thesis, and has spent the last 15 years working to sustain and further develop the organization. Teach for America is comprised of a national corps of recent college graduates who commit 2 years to teach in urban and rural public schools. Its mission is to help to eliminate educational inequity by enlisting our country's most promising future leaders in this effort.

Today, more than 3,500 corps members are teaching in our country's neediest communities, reaching approximately 300,000 students. They join more than 10,000 Teach for America alumni who are already assuming significant leadership roles in education and social reform even though they are in their 20s and 30s.

Kopp serves on the board of directors of The New Teacher Project, and the advisory boards of the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and the National Council on Teacher Quality.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Wendy Kopp for her devotion and hard work in the field of education, and wish to extend my congratulations and best wishes to her for much continued success.

CHICAGO: WORKING TO CREATE A 21ST CENTURY ENERGY POLICY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, as the summer vacation season comes to a close and the winter heating season begins, I urge my colleagues to take a moment to consider the need for a serious investment in alternative energy policies. With global warming, unrest in the Middle East and stagnating wages that are stretched thin by high fuel bills, both the environment and our country stand to gain from increased and aggressive promotion of renewables and energy efficiency.

Important steps have already been taken by state and city governments to support the use of renewable energy sources. The Apollo Alliance, an organization that promotes policies which meet the concerns of green environmentalists and blue-collar workers alike, has cited Chicago, Illinois, as being one of several forward-thinking cities that has already acted to put numerous energy-efficient policies in place. Noted by the Alliance were Chicago's comprehensive solar power, environmentally-friendly public transportation, location efficient mortgages, and green roofs initiatives.

As what the Alliance calls a "model" solar-powered community, Chicago is working to

promote photovoltaic cells and has attracted the solar manufacturer Solargenix to the city; a facility that employs 15 people full-time and manufactures 30–40 solar collectors a day. Solar factories such as Solargenix's and a recently-built photovoltaic field which will be used to help generate electricity ("Solar Panels Could Power Backup Plant," Chicago Tribune, September 21, 2006) contribute to the city's already-installed 2 MW of solar power.

Illinois is one of the country's top five ethanol-producing states, and it is no surprise that Chicago has environmentally-friendly transportation policies as well. In addition to ethanol, the city is exploring another alternative: the hydrogen fuel cell. As Merriman Curhan Ford & Co. mentioned in their May 2005 industry report, fuel cell buses already run on the streets of Chicago. Such public buses are doubly efficient: decreasing the amount of cars on the road, as well as not producing any negative greenhouse gases themselves. The Apollo Alliance explains the Chicago Transit Authority takes its concerns for the environment even further, partnering with the Park District and 48 other municipalities to purchase green power. Commonwealth Edison, the awarded bidder, with the help of the Environmental Resource Trust (ERT), plans to sell "green tickets" certified by the ERT and to create a fund to further finance the resource and development of renewable energies with the proceeds.

Simply encouraging citizens to use public transportation can greatly decrease the amount of greenhouse gases emitted from a given city, no matter what fuel is used in such transportation. Chicago has found that location efficient mortgages (LEM), mortgages that allow the purchaser to take out greater amounts of money, borrowing against the future money he or she will save by using public transportation, are particularly efficient in this respect. To further promote such mortgages and energy efficiency, Chicago also offered the first 100 LEM borrowers a voucher for \$900 toward the purchase of an EnergyStar refrigerator or washer/dryer set.

Chicago's Department of Environment also participates in green city planning through the creation of the City Hall Rooftop Garden Pilot Project in 2000 as part of the EPA's Urban Heat Island Initiative. This green roof project helps alleviate Chicago's carbon emissions by requiring a certain percentage of roof space be allocated to green roofs. The program's pilot project, the City Hall's garden, has successfully dropped the temperature on the roof surface and the surrounding air temperature—lowering cooling costs and demand for electricity in the summer and providing insulation to reduce heat energy needs in the winter. Green roofs also improve air quality by absorbing and converting carbon dioxide, producing oxygen, and removing airborne particulates.

The Apollo Alliance has recognized the many steps that Chicago has taken to make our Nation energy-independent and environmentally-friendly. We need to build and expand on their success. We need a 21st century energy policy that uses wind power, solar power, biomass, and geothermal energy in our homes and businesses; and ethanol and hydrogen-driven vehicles on our streets. City planning must be rethought to prevent urban sprawl and encourage the use of public transportation. Chicago and other cities have

shown us that we can take a new direction on our energy and environmental future—it is time that Congress act forcefully to do so as well.

INTRODUCING THE HAWAIIAN HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2006

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I am proud to introduce today. The Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2006 is the exact same language of HR 5851, reported out of the House Financial Services Committee on September 28, 2006.

The measure reauthorizes existing Native Hawaiian housing programs for five years and makes two adjustments to the program that will allow the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to help more Native Hawaiians whose incomes are equal to or less than 80 percent of the median income.

In 2000 Congress passed legislation authorizing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to provide block grants for affordable housing for Native Hawaiians through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The 2000 measure also authorized HUD home loan guarantees for low-income Native Hawaiians. Eligible borrowers include Native Hawaiian families, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and private nonprofit organizations experienced in planning and developing affordable housing for Native Hawaiians.

The Hawaiian Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2006 reauthorizes these programs and adds a new provision authorizing loan guarantees for home mortgage refinancing. This introduces greater flexibility and allows families to take advantage of lower interest rates as millions of other American families have. The measure would also permit the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to issue bonds. This will allow the Department to service more low-income families without a large increase in appropriations.

This bill is about homeownership, this is not welfare or public assistance. It offers another tool for a family to provide for a basic need, housing. This is unbelievably important in Hawaii where land is scarce and the median home price on the island of Oahu is \$639,000 and the median condominium price is \$310,000. This measure will advance our efforts to address housing affordability in the islands.

I would like to thank the House Financial Services Committee, in particular Chairman MIKE OXLEY and Ranking Member BARNEY FRANK, who have been extremely supportive in dealing with the housing problems of Hawaii. I would also like to recognize my colleague from Hawaii, Congressman ED CASE, who, like Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Member FRANK, is a cosponsor of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to help the residents of Hawaii and support this legislation.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY REVEREND
JESSE JACKSON

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a great civic leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

On October 8, 2006, Rev. Jesse Jackson will celebrate his 65th Birthday. Today, we the Congressional Black Caucus, pause to recognize this great leader in the area of civil rights.

Once an aide to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Jesse Jackson has been a political activist and public figure since the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Jackson, a Baptist minister, is the founder of the non-profit organization Rainbow/PUSH.

He has several times been an unofficial U.S. envoy in diplomatic missions; in 1999 he helped secure the release of three American military prisoners from Yugoslavia. He has been a candidate twice for the Presidency of the United States and while unsuccessful made a tremendous impact on American politics, opening doors for many minorities to run for elected office.

Reverend Jackson is a role model who has touched the lives of many and his legacy will live forever. It is because of you, Reverend Jackson, that we can say "I am Somebody!" In this celebration of your life may you bask in the pride, love, and admiration of your family and friends, as well as give thanks for your happiness.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL LATINO
AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fourth annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day which will be October 15.

This day is a call to action to all Latinos to protect their lives and the lives of those they love by getting tested and learning about HIV.

Latinos continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV, comprising over 20 percent of HIV/AIDS cases nationwide.

We all must work together to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in our families, communities, cities, states, nation, and around the world.

To do this we must not let differences in language and culture be barriers to providing access to preventative measures, healthcare and support services.

In my district, the AIDS Services Foundation of Orange County is a critical resource that works to prevent the spread of HIV and improve the lives of men, women, and children affected by HIV/AIDS.

They offer invaluable services to our community by providing food, transportation, housing, emergency financial assistance, kids and family programs, counseling, education and prevention services.

In honor of National Latino AIDS Day all of us need to renew our commitment to the fight to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT
LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this week to praise passage of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. With an estimated 40 million people relying on the Great Lakes basin for jobs, drinking water, and recreation, the health of this resource is paramount and should remain a priority for Congress. Our Great Lakes constitute the largest body of freshwater on the face of the earth.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you about a treasured spot in the Great Lakes—the north coast of Ohio. It is a true sapphire jewel, enjoyed by large communities of birders, sport and commercial fishermen, hunters and recreational boaters. And it is vital to life for every living creature in our region.

While the value of this treasure should be obvious to all, it is undeniable that the resources it provides remain threatened. This is a region whose wildlife populations are under attack by invasive species like the Gobe, Asian Carp and Zebra Mussel and where encroaching sprawl constantly jeopardizes the region's priceless wetlands. Without addressing the social and human costs posed by these problems, we face an incalculable menace of inaction—a menace that this week, this body took a step to fight.

Mr. Speaker, the reason that I wish to praise passage of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act is not because this bill solves all the longstanding problems that our Great Lakes face, but because it serves as one step in the journey toward restoring the integrity of our lakes. The bill authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Service for grants of up to \$12 million per year and gives legal authority for the Fish and Wildlife Service to receive \$2 million per year. These funds will be used to implement recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration that are consistent with water quality, fisheries, and wildlife agreements.

Though the House has taken a tremendous step towards restoring the Great Lakes by passing this bill, we must not rest. Instead, we must continue on with the next steps, taking up the additional priorities of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration not addressed in this bill. Let us find the will to expand the Ottawa and Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuges. Let us preserve more wetlands for the migrating birds that pass through the Great Lakes. Let us stop the flow of invasive species in the ballast water of transport ships. Let us celebrate victory for the crown jewel of our refuge system by fully funding the grant programs that we have just authorized.

Mr. Speaker, we are the only species with the capability of precipitating the wholesale extermination of other species; but, through compassion and conviction, we are also capable of protecting the things we treasure. We are unique in our ability to affect the fate of the planet, but also unique in our ability to predict those effects and to change our ways in light of what we foresee.

So now, let us take this one moment to appreciate the importance of passage of the

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. I would like to thank the many friends who made passage of this bill possible and ask them for the strength to continue the battle in restoring the Great Lakes to the pristine beauty that we can all foresee.

GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT OF
2006—BILL SUMMARY

Summary: This bill would reauthorize the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, a program first enacted in 1990 and again in 1998. This bill ensures that both fish and wildlife is included throughout the bill and ensures that this Act is consistent with the goals of Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

Fish & Wildlife Grants: The bill reauthorizes the state and tribal grant program. Under this bill, grants will be used to restore fish and now wildlife in the Great Lakes. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service would award grants based on the recommendations of the Great Lakes states and tribes. Grants must be consistent with water quality, fisheries, and wildlife agreements as well as the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration. The grants would be authorized to receive up to \$12 million per year.

Fish & Wildlife Regional Projects: The bill authorizes up to \$6 million each year for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to undertake projects that have a regional benefit to fish and wildlife. Under this new authority, the Service would undertake projects based on the recommendations of states and tribes.

Studies and Reports: The Fish & Wildlife Service will submit a report to Congress in 2011 that describe the fish and wildlife grants that have been awarded and the results of those grants.

Under this bill, the Service will provide updated information through a public access website to the states and tribes on what grants have been awarded, priorities proposed for funding in the budget, and actions taken in support of Great Lakes Regional Collaboration.

The bill calls upon the Service to complete the overdue 2002 Report on actions taken under this Act, which was called for under existing law, to be released by June of 2006.

Fishery Resource Offices: Maintains Fish & Wildlife Services Offices, which were authorized in 1990, and the Offices have the same operational duties. The offices are authorized to receive \$2 million per year.

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSWOMAN
STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES FOR 25
YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of my friend and our colleague, the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, for her 25 years of service to the people of Ohio. The residents of the 11th Congressional District, the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as all Americans, are fortunate to have such a tremendously dedicated Representative.

A woman of courage, integrity, and passion, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES is the first African American woman elected to the U.S.