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No. 199

House of Representatives

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT OF THE 110TH CONGRESS FIRST SESSION

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE TO ATTEND FU- NERAL OF THE LATE HONOR- ABLE JULIA CARSON AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to House Resolution 880, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Speaker on December 22, 2007, appointed the following Members of the House to the committee to attend the funeral of the late Honorable Julia Carson.

Mr. Burton, Indiana

The members of the Indiana delegation:

Mr. Visclosky
Mr. Buyer
Mr. Souder
Mr. Pence
Mr. Hill
Mr. Donnelly
Mr. Ellsworth, and
Mr. Conyers, Michigan
Mr. Jefferson, Louisiana
Mr. Bishop, Georgia
Ms. Corrine Brown, Florida
Ms. Jackson-Lee, Texas
Ms. Kilpatrick, Michigan
Ms. Lee, California
Mrs. Jones, Ohio
Mr. Meek, Florida
Ms. Moore, Wisconsin

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 20, 2007.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II

of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 20, 2007, at 12:02 p.m.:

That the Senate passed H.R. 1045.
That the Senate passed H.R. 4839.
That the Senate passed H.R. 2011.
That the Senate passed H.R. 3470.
That the Senate passed H.R. 3569.
That the Senate passed H.R. 3571.
That the Senate passed H.R. 3974.
That the Senate passed H.R. 4009.
That the Senate passed with an amend-
ment H.R. 4253.
That the Senate passed with an amend-
ment H.R. 3432.
That the Senate passed with an amend-
ment H.R. 3997.
That the Senate passed S. 2478.
Appointments: United States-China Eco-
nomic Security Review Commission.
With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk of the House.

HOUSE ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, on Thursday, December 20, 2007:

H.R. 1045. An act to designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Neal Smith Federal Building".

H.R. 2011. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Court-
house".

H.R. 3470. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 744 West Oglethorpe Highway in Hinesville, Georgia, as the "John Sidney 'Sid' Flowers Post Office Building".

H.R. 3569. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16731 Santa Ana Avenue in Fontana, California, as the "Beatrice E. Watson Post Office Building".

H.R. 3571. An act to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to permit individuals who have served as employees of the Office of Compliance to serve as Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, or General Counsel of the Office, and to permit individuals appointed to such positions to serve one additional term.

H.R. 3690. An act to provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3974. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 797 Sam Bass Road in Round Rock, Texas, as the "Marine Corps Corporal Steven P. Gill Post Office Building".

H.R. 4009. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 567 West Nepessing Street in Lapeer, Michigan, as the "Turrill Post Office Building".

H.J. Res. 72. Joint resolution making further continuation appropriations for the fiscal year 2008, and for other purposes.

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled bills of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore Mr. VAN HOLLEN, on Friday, December 21, 2007:

H.R. 660. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect judges, prosecutors, witnesses, victims, and their family members, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4839. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H16953

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, on Monday, December 24, 2007:

H.R. 2764. An act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED
AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, announced his signature to en-

rolled bills of the following titles on December 20, 2007:

S. 1396. To authorize a major medical facility project to modernize inpatient wards at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

S. 1896. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11 Central Street in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, as the "Officer Jeremy Todd Charron Post Office".

S. 1916. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the program for the sanctuary system for surplus chimpanzees by terminating the authority for the removal of chimpanzees from the system for research purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, further announced his signature to enrolled bills of the following titles on December 21, 2007:

S. 863. To amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to fraud in connection with major disaster or emergency funds.

S. 2436. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

S. 2499. To amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, and for other purposes.



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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2008, at noon.

Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2007

(Legislative day of Wednesday, December 19, 2007)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable BYRON L. DORGAN, a Senator from the State of North Dakota.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 28, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provision of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BYRON L. DORGAN, a Senator from the State of North Dakota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DORGAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M., MONDAY,
DECEMBER 31, 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until Monday, December 31, 2007.

Thereupon, the Senate at 10:01 a.m., recessed until Monday, December 31, 2007, at 10 a.m.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S16079

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, as we are well aware, the bill before us, H.R. 6, is not the product of a formal conference, but rather the result of amendments being passed between the House and Senate as a means of resolving the differences between their respective bills. I have noted in the past, and will continue to note, that I find this manner of legislating to be unsatisfactory and unwise. Given the difficulty experienced by the Senate in going to conference on any bill this year, however, this process is the best that we can hope for under the circumstances.

One of the reasons this process is inferior to that of a formal conference is the lack of a conference report and, thus, the lack of a written legislative history detailing why certain policies were adopted and others excluded. When the House passed its version of the energy bill currently before us (H.R. 3221) on August 4, 2007, the Committee on Energy and Commerce had contributed more to this legislation than any other committee in the House of Representatives and is the Committee of primary jurisdiction over the entire legislation.

The Committee's contribution was the result of six bills that were ultimately engrossed in H.R. 3221: H.R. 3236, the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2007; H.R. 3237, the Smart Grid Facilitation Act of 2007; H.R. 3238, the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Act; H.R. 3239, to promote advanced plug-in hybrid vehicles and vehicle components; H.R. 3240, the Energy Information Availability Act; and H.R. 3241, an act dealing with energy loan guarantee amounts. With the exception of H.R. 3241 (which was dropped in its entirety), the majority of the Committee's work was preserved in the bill before us today and the committee reports filed on August 3, 2007, remain relevant.

Therefore my remarks today will deal primarily with policies adopted in the bill before us on which the House initially had no position, such as the changes in Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) found in Title I, and the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) found in Title II. Both policies are within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce and represent a substantial change in current law.

Title I of H.R. 6, as amended by the Senate and now under consideration by the House, increases energy security and reduces emissions of greenhouse gases by improving vehicle fuel economy standards. This legislation represents a comprehensive overhaul and expansion of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) program, administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation, DOT. The specific objectives and targets reflect

Congress's determination of the maximum feasible increases in fuel economy that would permit the development and application of technology, giving appropriate consideration to the cost of compliance.

The CAFE program, administered by DOT, had been the sole means for regulating the fuel economy and carbon dioxide emissions of new motor vehicles made for sale in the United States since the 1970s. Congress specifically prescribed how DOT should determine the maximum feasible levels for fuel economy standards under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, carefully balancing technological feasibility, economic practicability, the effect of other regulations on fuel economy, and the need of the United States to conserve oil.

Approximately 30 years after Congress enacted the Clean Air Act to regulate air pollutants, however, the United States Supreme Court recognized the obligation of the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles under that Act. Carbon dioxide is widely recognized as one of the greenhouse gases that are emitted from motor vehicles, and one way to regulate the emissions of carbon dioxide from motor vehicles is to improve the fuel economy of those vehicles. As such, there is potential for EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act to overlap and conflict with that of the Department of Transportation.

H.R. 6, as initially passed by the Senate, included a section 519 expressly addressing the ability of EPA to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from new motor vehicles and its authority to grant preemption waivers to California to regulate the same. Section 519 stated that "[n]othing in this title shall be construed to conflict with the authority provided by sections 202 and 209 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521 and 7543, respectively)." The House of Representatives later amended the Senate amendments to H.R. 6 without including the Senate language in Section 519. Although the Senate further amended the House amendments to the Senate amendments of H.R. 6, the language of section 519 was not reinserted.

Subsequent to the Court's decision, but prior to consideration of this legislation, the President of the United States issued Executive Order 13432 requiring EPA and the Department of Transportation to coordinate their efforts when addressing emissions of carbon dioxide from new motor vehicles. The Supreme Court interpreted section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act as providing EPA authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. That grant of authority provides the EPA Administrator sufficient discretion to promulgate EPA regulations that conform to corresponding regulations issued by the Secretary of Transportation under this legislation. The Secretary, however, does not have corresponding flexibility to conform her regulations to those issued by the Administrator. The Secretary of Transportation is constrained by statutory guidelines contained in this legislation and the statutes it amends.

For example, to ensure the economic practicability of the fuel economy standards it establishes, section 102 of this legislation prohibits DOT from issuing standards for more than 5 model years at a time. The Department should issue standards only for those model years for which it can obtain reasonably-developed confidential product plans from vehicle manufacturers, and it is the determination of Congress that the amount of time should not exceed 5 years. This timeframe allows for reasonable and realistic estimates of market conditions, the availability of new and developing technologies, and other considerations of technological and economical practicability. Likewise, any other regulations issued or enforced regulating emissions of carbon dioxide that affect motor vehicle fuel economy should correspond to the timeframe and relevant limits placed on the Department of Transportation by Congress under this legislation.

This legislation provides clear and comprehensive direction to the Executive Branch regarding any and all regulations and enforcement actions with respect to increased motor vehicle fuel economy standards. Pursuant to this legislation, Congress intends for any regulations issued or enforced by the Environmental Protection Agency regulating emissions of carbon dioxide from motor vehicles under the Clean Air Act that affect vehicle fuel economy, be consistent with the provisions of this legislation, the CAFE program, and any regulations issued or enforced by Department of Transportation.

Title II of H.R. 6, as amended by the Senate and now under consideration by the House, pertains to the Renewable Fuels Standard or RFS. It was first created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58) for both environmental and energy security reasons. Since its inception, the RFS has been administered by EPA under the authority of the Clean Air Act. The RFS has experienced initial success in helping wean the Nation from its dependence on foreign petroleum. In 2007, our passenger vehicles used approximately 6 billion gallons of ethanol, thereby burning 4 billion fewer gallons of gasoline. This is well ahead of the schedule adopted in 2005. Several factors have converged that cause us to scale the program up to the levels in the bill before us today. First, with the price of a barrel of oil hovering in the \$100 range for several weeks now, the need to continue to decrease our dependence on foreign petroleum is more apparent than ever and to do so will require increased amounts of renewable fuel. Second, the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector is also more apparent, and renewable fuels hold great promise in helping meet this challenge. Conversely, several concerns have been raised with the viability of relying on corn-based ethanol as our primary renewable fuel: making ethanol from corn competes with other uses of corn as a food commodity and food-making feedstock; requires heavier use of pesticides and fertilizers; and also requires an increasing amount of farm acreage devoted to its cultivation.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

To address these competing concerns, the bill before us places an emphasis on the use of cellulosic biomass as a means of producing ethanol. Cellulosic ethanol holds great promise for the future of renewable fuels because it uses what now constitutes agricultural residue waste or low-value plant matter, and it contributes fewer greenhouse gas emissions to our atmosphere than either corn-based ethanol or conventional gasoline. The challenge with cellulosic ethanol is that it is not yet available on a commercial basis. This is a young industry that requires two things before its product can be widely deployed: (1) technological breakthroughs that will allow it to be produced on a cost effective commercial scale; and (2) the support of the Federal Government. To that end, the bill mandates the use of 16 billion gallons of cellulosic ethanol by 2022.

A dramatic expansion of alternative fuels was initially proposed by President Bush in his State of the Union address this year, and an expansion of renewable fuels was later championed by the Senate in the energy bill it passed on June 21, 2007. Both proposals, however, contained serious flaws that would have made implementation of this policy extremely difficult or failed to capture the promises of new technology.

First, both proposals would have kept the current RFS in place at EPA under the Clean Air Act and created a new, additive program under which authority is directly assigned to the President, presumably permitting delegation to an unspecified entity of the Executive Branch. This would have caused a tremendous amount of regulatory uncertainty for the obligated parties who must meet the mandates of the RFS and would have caused bureaucratic duplication of a character that often bedevils the Federal Government. The compromise bill before us properly amends the current program, and in doing so makes significant changes to the existing renewable fuel standard, many of which require EPA to modify its existing regulations. Section 210(a) and (c) of the bill govern the transition from the existing RFS program to the modified RFS program. Section 210(a) provides that the increase in the renewable fuels mandate level for 2008 goes into effect without additional rulemaking by EPA. The other statutory changes to the RFS do not go into effect until January 1, 2009, by which time EPA is required to have completed a rulemaking to amend its RFS regulations.

Second, while cellulosic ethanol holds great promise, it is not commercially available today. If we are going to formulate policy to encourage its successful deployment, we must also be prepared to fall short and in so doing, plan for a worst-case scenario. The earlier Senate-passed bill failed to do so. The compromise bill before us couples an aggressive, technology-forcing schedule for cellulosic biofuels with a "safety net" for refiners in new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(7)(D).

On an annual basis, EPA must compare the projected domestic production for cellulosic biofuels for the following calendar year to the level set in the statute. For any calendar year in which projected domestic production is less than the mandate level set in the statute, EPA is required to revise the mandate level so that it equals projected domestic production. EPA will thus be waiving the requirement to meet the amount of the mandate set in the statute that is higher than projected domestic produc-

tion. Obligated parties, such as refiners, will then have to turn in credits at the end of the year in an amount equal to the revised mandate; they will not have to turn in credits equal to the mandated level set in the statute. If EPA issues such a waiver, the bill authorizes and requires EPA to make credits available for sale pursuant to new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(7)(D). Absent such a credit provision, artificially high prices might be charged for biofuels, which could occur in a tight market. The credit provision effectively caps the price for cellulosic biofuels if cellulosic technology is not deployed as rapidly as required by the bill.

Third, neither the President's proposal nor the Senate bill ensured that cellulosic technology would significantly assist in meeting the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector. One of the important potential benefits of cellulosic biofuels is that their lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions are predicted to be 80 to 110 percent lower than those of gasoline, although there is some uncertainty about the reduction level because cellulosic technology and the lifecycle greenhouse gas analytical methodology are still under development. This bill requires that cellulosic biofuels achieve at least a 60 percent reduction. Cellulosic biofuels that do not achieve at least a 60 percent reduction in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions can get credit as advanced biofuels if they achieve at least a 50 percent reduction.

Section 210(b) of the bill before us also adds subparagraph 211(o)(12) to the Clean Air Act to clarify that nothing in subsection 211(o) or rules issued thereunder shall affect or be construed to affect the regulatory status of carbon dioxide or any other greenhouse gas, or to expand or limit regulatory authority regarding carbon dioxide or any other greenhouse gas, for purposes of other provisions of the Clean Air Act. The reference in Section 204(b) of the bill to Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(12) does not change this intent in any way, but merely ensures that Section 204(b) is not read as overriding new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(12).

Fourth, the bill before us provides more specificity than the President's proposal or the Senate bill about what qualifies as renewable biomass. New Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(1)(I) adds some important environmental safeguards to the RFS program, including ones that will help protect certain wildlife habitats and special eco-systems.

The bill before us also contains other new provisions designed to make the program more workable. Under certain circumstances where an insufficient volume of biofuels are produced to meet the mandated levels set in the statute, new Section 211(o)(7)(F) of the Clean Air Act directs the administrator to reset the mandate levels for future years. In doing so, the administrator is to use the same criteria, standards and processes as he is required to use by new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(2)(B)(ii) when setting mandated levels post-2022. The reference to new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(2)(B)(ii) incorporates new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(2)(B)(iii) and (iv). It is the intent of Congress that these criteria will ensure that, if the administrator sets the applicable volume of advanced biofuel under new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(17)(7) for any particular year, it shall be at least the same percentage of the applicable volume of renewable fuel in the previous calendar year.

When the administrator must establish mandated levels of cellulosic biofuels, new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(2)(B)(iv) directs the administrator to set the mandate at a level that the administrator expects can be met without the use of the safety net provisions in new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(7)(D). Nonetheless, the safety net provisions would continue to be available if needed.

Although the mandatory requirements of the RFS program are limited to transportation fuels, it is possible that renewable fuel could also replace petroleum-based fuel used for home heating or jets. Rather than expand the mandated coverage of the RFS program to include home heating oil or jet fuel, which might result in additional obligated parties or make implementation of the program more burdensome, new Clean Air Act Section 211(o)(5)(E) gives the administrator discretion to allow RFS credits to be earned for renewable fuel sold for home heating or as jet fuel.

MAKE THE R&D TAX CREDIT PERMANENT

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Mr. SALI. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days the Research and Development Tax Credit expires. Sadly, this will not be the first time Congress allowed this to happen. The world of business has its own challenges without adding the stressful uncertainty on whether the R&D tax credit will be available next year. A permanent extension of the R&D tax credit can go miles in advancing our competitive edge in the global economy.

Manufacturers, small companies, and any firm that does research relies on the R&D tax credit. Businesses must constantly meet changing consumer demands and do so by offering products and services, which makes R&D essential. Companies benefit from a R&D tax credit by improving their products and services. Congress has needlessly placed hardship and unnecessary risk on industries by not making this tax credit a reliable and predictable part of their business calculus.

We missed an opportunity to change that. When the House reconvenes, let us make the R&D tax credit permanent.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, on December 19, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 1186 on H.R. 2764. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

NICS IMPROVEMENT
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, which makes a number of important improvements to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Congresswoman MCCARTHY and I first offered this legislation in 2002, when it became obvious to us that the NICS System was not working as Congress had intended it to. Those shortcomings were highlighted earlier this year when a gunman with a history of mental illness shot and killed 32 people and wounded many more. Cho Sun Hui had been adjudicated mentally ill by the state of Virginia, and under the law should not have been able to purchase the guns he used to kill his classmates. This legislation will ensure that individuals like Cho Sun Hui are included in the NICS database.

This legislation will also benefit lawful gun purchasers, many of whom face unnecessary delays when waiting for their background check to be completed. For the first time since the creation of NICS, it will live up to its name and be both national and instant. It also benefits those who have been wrongfully included in the NICS database by providing a mechanism for petitioning the government for removal from the system. This is an important improvement which will strengthen the second amendment rights of all Americans.

There are many people who should be thanked for their hard work on this bill, but I would like to take just a moment to recognize a few of those people. Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY and I have worked on NICS improvement legislation for a few years now and while most would say we are an odd pair when it comes to this particular issue, I would suggest we are just two legislators trying to fix a legitimate problem. I have tremendous respect for Representative MCCARTHY; it has been an honor and privilege to work with her. I would also like to thank Senator CHUCK SCHUMER for his hard work and dedication. Also, I would like to extend my appreciation to Senators CRAIG and HATCH, as well as Representatives CONYERS and LAMAR SMITH. Lastly, I would like to thank the National Rifle Association. The NRA's support for this legislation has been invaluable and is a testament to the NRA's commitment to passing sensible and responsible legislation to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SCHIP
EXTENSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2499, the Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Program Extension Act of 2007. The measure includes an important, albeit limited, delay of the

scheduled 10 percent cut to Medicare's physician payment rates, which will help ensure quality care and access for Medicare patients without the cuts to vital Medicare programs I opposed previously. While not the expansion to reach an additional 4 million children I had hoped for, S. 2449 also extends the authorization for the State Children's Health Insurance Program until March 31, 2009, ensuring the needs of the 6 million children currently enrolled are met. I hope Congress will again forge ahead and continue negotiations to reach more of these eligible and uninsured children.

As co-chair of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, I was extremely pleased to see the reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Program to fund type 1 diabetes research and type 2 treatment and prevention programs for Native Americans and Alaska Natives included in S. 2449. I am the lead Republican sponsor, with my colleague Representative DIANA DEGETTE, of legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.R. 2762, to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Research and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians for 5 years and to increase the authorized funding level to \$200 million annually for each program. While a long-term extension is needed, in this difficult budget environment a short-term extension is a step in the right direction and I will continue to work next year with my colleagues to finish the job and secure a multi-year renewal so the critical long-term projects supported by this program can continue.

Since their creation in 1997, the Special Diabetes Programs have led to research breakthroughs through the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Research and have increased diabetes treatment and prevention programs for Native Americans and Alaska Natives through the Special Diabetes Program for Indians. Before this time, efforts on both fronts were in short supply. The Special Diabetes Programs have been reauthorized twice and have enjoyed broad bipartisan support in both the House and Senate; and H.R. 2762 continues in this spirit with 225 cosponsors.

The reauthorization of the Special Diabetes Programs is vitally important and an extension to September 30, 2009 is welcome.

With over 20 million adults and children in the U.S. affected by diabetes, the cost to the U.S. economy is estimated at \$132 billion per year in direct and indirect medical costs alone. Continued funding of the Special Diabetes Programs will ensure that the Federal effort to combat diabetes remains strong, as we ardently work to ensure that accelerated diabetes research, treatment, and prevention efforts with on the ground results in improving the lives of millions of people burdened with diabetes continue. I will continue to push for a longer extension of the Special Diabetes Programs.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, Congress has sent a clear message to the American people that

it is time for Government to raise CAFE standards for the first time in 32 years. We have worked very hard during the past year—negotiating language to increase the statutory standards by 40 percent. It is important that the entire Federal Government follow the guidelines set forth in H.R. 6 in order to provide regulatory certainty for the domestic auto industry, including manufacturers, suppliers, and dealers.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY
MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I am submitting the following remarks for the record on H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act of 2007, as clarification of House Report 110–501 to accompany the bill H.R. 4040, and which shall be considered part of the legislative history of this bill.

H.R. 4040 was ordered favorably reported to the House, amended, by the Committee on Energy and Commerce on December 18, 2007, by a recorded vote of 51 yeas and 0 nays. This landmark legislation, which enjoys broad, bipartisan support, was brought up before the House the next day, December 19. In light of this expedited consideration, the Committee was forced to file its report on an accelerated schedule. The following remarks are offered to clarify the Committee's intent with respect to certain provisions of H.R. 4040.

Section 101 establishes a Federal ban on lead in children's products beyond specified minute amounts, with section 101(a) addressing lead content in children's products. The intent of the Committee in providing a defined limit by weight is to establish a standard that is readily understood and easier to monitor for compliance. The Committee's primary goal is to provide standards that eliminate children's exposure to lead from toys and other children's products, and thereby further reduce the potential for harm to children's health.

The exception in paragraph (6) for inaccessible component parts that are contained in sealed coverings and casings is intended primarily for sealed electronic devices where component electrical parts and lead solder are necessary for the device to function.

Subsection (b) applies to lead paint in children's products. The alternative measure provided for in paragraph (1)(C) is intended to enable the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, to inspect more products and enforce the paint levels in less time than would otherwise occur if they were confined to testing products in the agency's laboratory.

In administering subsection (c), which gives the CPSC authority to extend, by rule, the implementation period for the new lead standards for an additional 180 days, the Committee expects the CPSC to give careful consideration to the effect on small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Committee intends for the agency to put the public health and safety first, but within that construct also to work with small- and medium-sized enterprises that may be disproportionately affected to help them to achieve compliance in a timely manner. In

general, this section is intended to authorize the granting of a modest time extension for manufacturers encountering unexpected technical or technological challenges in complying with the lead standard. The Committee expects that manufacturers will apply for waivers on a product-by-product or class-by-class basis, and that CPSC will carefully evaluate each application to ensure that any extension will have no adverse health or safety impact.

Section 102 establishes requirements for mandatory third-party testing for certain children's products. The Committee intends for these requirements to be vigorously enforced, but it does not intend the provision to be interpreted to require unnecessary duplicative testing.

Section 103 requires manufacturers to place distinguishing marks, to the extent feasible, on both children's products and their packaging that specify the location and date of production of such products. The Committee intends for this provision to aid in determining the origin of the product through the supply chain and the possible cause of the recall. The Committee believes that this will facilitate accurate identification of products subject to a recall so that consumers, retailers, and others throughout the chain may expeditiously remove the product from their homes and the stream of commerce. The Committee does not intend for the date requirement to impose an obligation for a daily date change, but may include an indication of a period of time if such label will accurately identify the product in the event of a recall.

Section 107 directs the CPSC to examine the effectiveness of the current voluntary standard that governs a wide variety of hazards that could be presented by children's toys. The Committee is disturbed by the large number of recalls this year, and expects this review to be undertaken diligently to determine the effectiveness of the applicable standards, the relevant risks of injury and the available injury data, and the need for mandatory standards and third-party testing, as appropriate. The Committee believes that small powerful magnets present a serious hazard to children and should be a high priority for CPSC action.

Section 201 authorizes increased funding levels for the CPSC to enable the agency, among other things, to attract and retain talented and experienced personnel in order to carry out its important mission effectively. The Committee urges that, to attract talented scientists in the various disciplines necessary to achieve that goal, the CPSC will encourage scientific staff to seek appropriate publishing opportunities in peer-reviewed journals and other media. To that end, the Committee expects the CPSC to adopt, within a few months after enactment of this legislation, an internal policy that encourages such publication and sets forth appropriate guidelines and timeframes for management review and consideration of staff requests for clearance to publish. The Committee intends to conduct oversight of the CPSC publication policy and practices as part of its review of the CPSC's performance of its mission.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO
HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2764, CON-
SOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2008 Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs amended appropriations bill includes funding for H.R. 2642, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008.

This amended bill sends a clear message to America's service men and women, their families, and our veterans that a grateful Nation deeply respects their service and sacrifice. This bill says to all who have served that just as you have kept your promises to this country, we intend to keep our promises to you.

Overall the bill totals \$63.9 billion, of which \$3.7 billion is contingent emergency funding. It provides the largest increase in VA health care funding in the 77-year history of the VA. These additional funds allow the Veterans Health Administration to hire more doctors and nurses; provide case managers for veterans with traumatic injuries; improve mental health care and PTSD services; increase access to medical services for members of the National Guard and Reserve forces in rural areas; modernize hospitals and clinics; increase the number of beds available for homeless veterans; and increase medical research. The additional funds also allow for an increase in beneficiary travel reimbursement, the first such increase since 1979.

The Veterans Health Administration, which includes Medical Services, Medical Administration, Medical Facilities, and Medical Research, is funded at \$37.2 billion, \$2.6 billion more than the President's request. These funds will mean expanded care, shorter wait times, and safer facilities for our veterans.

In addition to medical care, the bill provides funds to hire 1,800 new claims processors to reduce the serious backlog of benefits claims and reduce the time to process new claims. These were complaints the subcommittee heard repeatedly from many different sources and we took action.

On the Military Construction side, this bill also supports our active duty and Guard and Reserve service men and women and their families. The bill provides \$20.6 billion for military construction, family housing, and BRAC.

I am particularly proud of what we were able to do in this bill for families. Every year when the highest ranking non-commissioned officers testify before our subcommittee, we ask them to give us the top three quality of life issues facing military families. Child care is on every service's list and generally ranked as number one. That is why I am excited that we were able to fund 16 child care centers, 13 more than the President requested in his budget. We listened to the top non-commissioned officers, military families, and support groups, such as the National Military Family Association, and did our best to address their concerns.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, Roger Wicker. His input and advice was invaluable in constructing this bill and our service men and women, their families, and our veterans are better served due to his leadership. I also want to thank the staff of the subcommittee, Carol Murphy, Tim Peterson, Walter Hearne, Donna Shahbaz, and Mary Arnold with the majority and Liz Dawson and Dena Baron with the minority. They have worked many long days and nights throughout the year putting this bill together and working with the Departments to ensure we have met our military and veterans most critical needs. Finally, I want to thank John Conger from my personal staff and Susan Sweat from Mr. Wicker's personal staff.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is a bill we can all be proud to support.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC, for votes during the week of December 17, 2007.

However, I would have recorded the following votes on the rollcall votes which I missed. They included:

DECEMBER 17, 2007

(1) H. Res. 856—Rollcall No. 1163—Expressing the heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Omaha, Nebraska, on Wednesday, December 5, 2007—"yes."

(2) H. Res. 851—Rollcall No. 1164—Honoring local and state first responders, and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007—"yes."

(3) Previous Question—Rollcall No. 1165—On ordering the previous question to H. Res. 873—"yes."

(4) H. Res. 873—Rollcall No. 1166—Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules—"yes."

(5) H. Con. Res. 271—Rollcall No. 1167—Providing for the sine die adjournment of the first session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress—"no."

(6) Previous Question—Rollcall No. 1168—On ordering the previous question to H. Res. 878—"yes."

(7) H. Res. 878—Rollcall No. 1169—Providing for the consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2764) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—"yes."

(8) H.R. 4286—Rollcall No. 1170—To award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, non-violence, human rights, and democracy in Burma—"yes."

(9) 1st Senate Amendment to H.R. 2764—Rollcall No. 1171—On motion to agree to the Senate amendment with the 1st House amendment—"yes."

(10) 2nd Senate Amendment to H.R. 2764—Rollcall No. 1172—On motion to agree to the Senate amendment with the 2nd House amendment—"yes."

(11) H. Con. Res. 254—Rollcall No. 1173—Recognizing and celebrating the centennial of Oklahoma statehood—"yes."

DECEMBER 18, 2007

(1) Previous Question—Rollcall No. 1174—On ordering the previous question to H.R. 877—"yes."

(2) H. Res. 877—Rollcall No. 1175—Providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 6) to move the United States toward greater energy independence and security, to increase the production of clean renewable fuels, to protect consumers, to increase the efficiency of products, buildings, and vehicles, to promote research on and deploy greenhouse gas capture and storage options, and to improve the energy performance of the Federal Government, and for other purposes—"yes."

(3) H.R. 3793—Rollcall No. 1176—To amend title 37, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Defense to continue to pay to a member of the Armed Forces who is retired or separated from the Armed Forces due to a combat-related injury certain bonuses that the member was entitled to before the retirement or separation and would continue to be entitled to if the member was not retired or separated—"yes."

(4) H.R. 6—Rollcall No. 1177—To reduce our Nation's dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable, and alternative energy resources, promoting new emerging energy technologies, developing greater efficiency, and creating a Strategic Energy Efficiency and Renewables Reserve to invest in alternative energy, and for other purposes—"yes."

(5) H.R. 2761—Rollcall No. 1178—To extend the Terrorism Insurance Program of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes—"yes."

(6) S. 2271—Rollcall No. 1179—To authorize State and local governments to divest assets in companies that conduct business operations in Sudan, to prohibit United States Government contracts with such companies, and for other purposes—"yes."

(7) H. Res. 542—Rollcall No. 1180—Expressing the unconditional support of the House of Representatives for the members of the National Guard—"yes."

(8) H. Res. 884—Rollcall No. 1181—Providing for the concurrence by the House in the Senate amendments to H.R. 3997, with an amendment—"yes."

(9) H.R. 3690—Rollcall No. 1182—To provide for the transfer of the Library of Congress police to the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes—"yes."

DECEMBER 19, 2007

(1) H.R. 3996—Rollcall No. 1183—To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes—"no."

(2) S. 2499—Rollcall No. 1184—To amend titles XVIII, XIX, and XXI of the Social Security Act to extend provisions under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP programs, and for other purposes—"yes."

(3) H.R. 4040—Rollcall No. 1185—To establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's prod-

ucts and to reauthorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission—"yes."

(4) H.R. 2764—Rollcall No. 1186—Making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes—"no."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH SNYDER, M.D.

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to acknowledge the all too short life of Dr. Joseph Snyder who lost his valiant battle against cancer Monday, December 17.

Dr. Snyder was the preeminent kidney transplant specialist in the State of Nevada. He wrote the protocols and procedures that govern the transplantation of kidneys in our Nevada hospitals. Hundreds, if not thousands, of his fellow citizens are alive today due to the dedication, expertise, and extraordinary talents of this gifted physician.

Joseph Snyder was a caring doctor, a loving husband, and a wonderful and dedicated father to his two children, Johanna, age 6 and Sebastian, age 3.

Dr. Joe and his wife MaryJhan were happily married for 7 years. Together they shared a wonderful life and made a home for their children filled with joy and love.

In addition to his family, Dr. Joe enjoyed reading and attending the theatre. His interest was history, particularly the period surrounding America's Civil War.

A senior partner in the nephrology group Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada, Dr. Snyder received his medical training at Georgetown University, graduating cum laude, and completed his fellowship at Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Virginia. He received his transplant training at the University of California at San Francisco. He was board certified in both internal medicine and nephrology.

Dr. Snyder held professional memberships in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, International Society of Nephrology, and American Society of Transplant Physicians.

He relocated to Las Vegas in 1991. In addition to his partnership with Kidney Specialists of Southern Nevada, Dr. Snyder was a clinical assistant professor at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, as well as the head of the transplant program for the medical school. Dr. Snyder was a noted author of numerous publications in the field of renal disease and kidney transplantation procedures.

Dr. Joseph Snyder will be mourned and missed by his family, his colleagues, and his patients. His untimely death leaves a great void in the medical community of southern Nevada.

Most of all he will be remembered as a kind and loving family man, a dedicated physician, and a pillar of our community.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the Snyder family at this time of grief and reflection.

CONSUMER PROTECTION MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 4040, The Consumer Protection Safety Modernization Act, not just as a strong believer in consumer safety protections but also as a proud co-sponsor of this legislation. This important piece of legislation helps protect Americans from harmful and potentially deadly substances found in our consumer products.

Far too often, Americans are unknowingly confronted with tainted products putting their health and lives in danger. Last week alone, the Consumer Protection Agency had to recall 300,000 Baby Bead and Race Car Toys due to toxic levels of lead paint, 12,000 girls' hooded sweatshirts due to a strangulation hazard, and 12,000 Christmas candle sets that posed a serious fire hazard. These are only a fraction of the products recalled last week due to serious safety violations, and many of the products we Americans use are not even adequately screened.

H.R. 4040 fixes many of the failures in our product safety system by requiring that all children's products marketed to children under the age of 12 must undergo third party testing and certification, reducing the lead standard acceptable in children's toys, raising the penalty for breaking consumer product safety laws, prohibiting the sale and export of recalled products, and drastically speeding up the Consumer Product Safety Commission's ability of recalling hazardous products. In addition, not only does H.R. 4040 address the current crisis of consumer product safety, but significantly increases the financial resources of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to protect us from hazardous products in the coming years.

As we enjoy this holiday season with our loved ones, the American people should know that we as members of Congress are continuously working to ensure the safety of the products on America's shelves and wrapped presents shared during the holiday season.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF OKLAHOMA STATEHOOD

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, this year, the State of Oklahoma celebrates its centennial anniversary. Today, I join the rest of the Oklahoma delegation in bringing a resolution to the floor that celebrates and honors our state's rich history. Most of all, we honor the people of Oklahoma, whose hard work, decency, perseverance, and pioneer spirit have written a truly unique chapter in America's history.

Oklahoma has always been defined by the adventurous nature of the men and women who settled there.

Prior even to becoming a State, Oklahoma was designated Indian Territory. Native Americans have been a huge part of Oklahoma history and have provided a vibrant culture and long list of traditions that continue to enrich the lives of our citizens.

In the late 19th century, American pioneers arrived in Oklahoma after a series of land runs held by the federal government. They came from every corner of the country looking for their piece of the American dream.

In 1907 we became a State, and it has been a century of both hardships and blessings. But no matter what challenges Oklahoma families face, and we have had our share, the men and women of this great State have always come out stronger.

Today, 100 years after achieving statehood, we have much to offer—a tremendous quality of life, a work ethic second to none, and a pioneer spirit that is just as much alive as it was a century ago.

During Oklahoma's relatively short life, our State has left a significant footprint on American culture. Will Rogers, Woody Guthrie, Ralph Ellison, Thom Stafford, and Jim Thorpe are just a few of the American icons who hail from Oklahoma. No other state has produced more astronauts. We have been on the forefront of energy production and agriculture. If you like country music, Oklahoma has produced the stars: Garth Brooks, Toby Keith, Reba McEntyre, Vince Gill, and Carrie Underwood, just to name a few of our talented musicians. And, oh yes, we've been known to play a little football too.

Of course, there are millions of others whose names will never appear in history books, and we honor them as well. It is those unsung heroes that remind me, as they should remind all of us, that compassion, hard work, and a spirit of adventure can bring both success and happiness. Truly, I can think of no greater honor than to represent them in the United States Congress.

Thank you, and may God bless Oklahoma.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR HEALTH CARE ACT—TITLE 42

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce the "Equal Rights for Health Care Act—Title 42." Our Founding Fathers wisely wrote that all Americans should have the equal rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In order to have life one must be healthy and have adequate healthcare. Ensuring those rights of my constituents and the American people is our primary responsibility as Members of Congress. H.R. 4849 will prohibit discrimination of health care services and research programs that receive Federal funding based on sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability status.

The civil rights laws have historically been a powerful mechanism for effecting necessary

change in the United States. Each law represents a national commitment to end discrimination and establish a mandate to bring the excluded into the mainstream. These equal rights laws ensure that the Federal government delivers on the Constitution's promise of equal opportunity so that every individual has the right to develop his or her talents. Healthcare should not be an exception to this precedent.

In 1971, only 18 percent of all women, compared to 26 percent of all men, had completed 4 or more years of college. In 1972, Title IX was introduced by Representative Edith Green of Oregon. In 2007, celebrating the 35th Anniversary of Title IX, which assured woman's right to education equality, the U.S. Department of Education showed 56 percent of all women compared to 44 percent of all men in four or more years of college. This mandate created a sea of change in our expectations of what equal funding could achieve.

Federal law prohibits discrimination across a wide array of public policy arenas, none more so than in relation to voting and public education rights. The "Equal Rights for Health Care Act—Title 42" H.R. 4849 seeks to have the same effect in the health care community. With the introduction of H.R. 4849, we as a Congress, are taking another step toward equal rights and I look forward to working with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to accomplish this goal.

CHIMP HAVEN IS HOME ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM MCCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MCCRERY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1916, the Chimp Haven is Home Act. S. 1916 is companion legislation to a bill I introduced with Congressman MELANCON, H.R. 3295. In 2000, President Clinton signed into law the "Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance and Protection Act"—otherwise known as the CHIMP Act. The CHIMP Act provided for the establishment and operation of a system to provide lifetime care to chimpanzees that were used, or were bred or purchased for use, in research conducted or supported by the Federal Government AND who are no longer needed for such research. The system envisioned by the CHIMP Act is now a reality in Keithville, Louisiana. It is called Chimp Haven.

Chimp Haven is now home to 123 chimpanzees. As a relatively new organization, Chimp Haven faces the challenge of raising money from the private sector. This challenge has been heightened due to concerns that the CHIMP Act theoretically permits chimpanzees to be removed from Chimp Haven and used for medical research. Private financial support is important for Chimp Haven because the CHIMP Act requires the 501(c)(3) to obtain significant matching funds for its operating and construction costs.

This legislation removes the "return to medical research clause" from the law and will

give everyone involved with Chimp Haven peace of mind because the chimpanzees will be able to grow old peacefully in their new home and they cannot be removed for research purposes. The legislation will not adversely affect human health research, as these chimpanzees were deemed unfit for further experimentation. The resident chimpanzees at Chimp Haven are currently able to be studied in a non-invasive manner and S. 1916 will not change that ability.

The chimpanzees at Chimp Haven have spent their lives in research laboratories helping to improve the lives of all Americans. Many of our discoveries in space and medicine are due to chimpanzees. I am proud to help modify the existing law to ensure chimpanzees at Chimp Haven will spend their final years happily.

IN MEMORY OF BETH SHARON SAMUELS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 28, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, this week marks the first anniversary in the Hebrew calendar of the passing of Beth Sharon Samuels, an extraordinary constituent who lost her life to cancer in January 2007 at the age of thirty-one.

Beth grew up in Los Angeles, attending the Yeshiva University High School of Los Angeles and graduating as valedictorian. She went on to study at a women's seminary in Israel before graduating from Columbia University with a degree in mathematics. She then completed a three-year program at the Drisha Institute in Bible and Talmud, a Ph.D. in math at Yale, and earned an assistant professorship at the University of California, Berkeley. In the meantime, she gave birth to a daughter Danelle and later to daughter Natalia while undergoing intensive chemotherapy treatments.

Beth coupled her academic talent with a passion for Jewish learning. During her time at Columbia, she served as a leader of the Jewish community and was a force for change on behalf of women's participation in Jewish ritual life. While at the Drisha Institute she traveled around the country to teach young women how to engage Jewish texts and explore their spirituality. She imbued all of her pursuits with youthful energy and zeal.

According to her husband Ari, Beth wished that her legacy be the Jewish value of *chesed*—kindness. Her friends and family remember her for an extraordinary capacity to perform countless acts of kindness for others and help bring out the best in others. They celebrate her short life for its wisdom, zest, and humanity.

My condolences go out to her parents, Elana and Zachary, her husband, Ari, her daughters Danelle and Natalia and her extended friends and family on this solemn occasion.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Senate met at 10:00:59 a.m. in pro forma session, and recessed at 10:01:23 a.m. until 10 a.m., on Monday, December 31, 2007.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet on Thursday, January 3, 2008 for the convening of the Second Session of the One Hundred Tenth Congress.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Monday, December 31

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Thursday, January 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: To be announced.

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