

I share President Obama's conviction that it is unacceptable for Iran to possess nuclear weapons and his determination to seek a diplomatic solution to this issue. However, should engagement with Iran not yield the desired results in a reasonable period of time, we will have no choice but to press forward with additional sanctions—such as those contained in IRPSA—that could truly cripple the Iranian economy. In that respect, I am pleased that Secretary of State Clinton has said that she is already intensively engaged with our allies and other key states in the international community for the purpose of, in her words, "laying the groundwork for the kind of very tough . . . sanctions that might be necessary in the event that our offers are either rejected or the process is inconclusive or unsuccessful."

This legislation is offered in that spirit.

HONORING TEXAS NURSES ASSOCIATION

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, The nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States comprise our nation's largest health care profession; and

Whereas, A renewed emphasis on primary and preventive health care will require the better utilization of all of our nation's registered nursing resources; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association has had a mission to advance nursing through leadership, advocacy and innovation; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association was founded on February 22, 1907 in Fort Worth, Texas with a group of 19 nurses as the Texas Graduate Nurses' Association and is the oldest professional nursing association in Texas; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association has advocated to improve the practice and perception of nursing and to ensure quality care for all Texans; and

Whereas, The demand for registered nursing services will be greater than ever because of the aging of the American population, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technology, and the explosive growth of home health care services; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association has been successful promoting the growth of the nursing practice by getting the Nursing Shortage Reduction Act of 2001 to increase nursing school enrollments; and

Whereas, That more qualified registered nurses will be needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of health care consumers in this community; and

Whereas, Texas Nurses Association in 2007 celebrated 100 years of advocating for professional nursing in Texas; and

Whereas, Along with the American Nurses Association, the Texas Nurses Association has declared the week of May 6–12 as NATIONAL NURSES WEEK with the theme 'Nurses: Building a Healthy America' in celebration of the ways in which registered nurses strive to provide safe and high quality patient care and map out the way to improve our health care system; therefore

Be it hereby *Resolved*, That Congressman HENRY CUELLAR, in representing the 28th Con-

gressional District of the State of Texas, honors the Texas Nurses Association.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF CORPORAL BRAD A. DAVIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Army Corporal Brad A. Davis, who dedicated himself to serving our country, his community and his family as he courageously and selflessly rose to the call of duty.

Corporal Davis grew up in Garfield Heights, Ohio and graduated from Garfield Heights High School. Shortly thereafter, in 2006, he enlisted in the Army, and served our country in two tours of duty in Iraq. He served in F Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Throughout his tenure in the Army, Corporal Davis consistently reflected bravery, commitment and compassion, and he often and easily offered his assistance to anyone in need, without regard to his own sacrifice. Corporal Davis risked his own safety to assist his fellow soldiers and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama. He was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Good Conduct Medal by the Secretary of the U.S. Army.

Corporal Davis was an exceptional and courageous United States soldier, and an equally exceptional human being. His young life was framed by commitment to family, service to country, loyalty to his brothers and sisters in uniform, and reflected an unbridled love of life. Corporal Davis' family and friends were the center and foundation of his life. He was the youngest child of Terri and Bob Davis, and the youngest sibling of Jennifer, Robert and Rebecca. A kind young man with a generous and fun-loving heart, Corporal Davis loved being around family and friends and was always the one to bring people together, whether for a last-minute summer game of cornhole or an organized softball tournament.

Madam Speaker, and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Corporal Brad A. Davis, whose heroic actions, commitment and bravery will be remembered always. I extend my deepest condolences to the family of Corporal Davis his beloved parents, Bob and Terri, his beloved sisters and brother—Jennifer, Rebecca and Robert; his beloved nephews, Landon and Lukas, and his extended family and friends. The significant sacrifice, service, courage that defined the life of Corporal Davis will be honored and remembered by throughout the Cleveland community.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, on March 24, 2009, the House of Representatives

passed H. Con. Res. 55—recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA)—unanimously by voice vote. The Members of this House have spoken in one voice affirming the need to further deepen the relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

This anniversary is an important milestone and represents an incredible opportunity for us to further build upon and strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan relationship. On April 12, 2009, President Ma Ying-jeou in his address on the anniversary of the TRA declared "the TRA has come to symbolize the strong friendship and trust forged between America and Taiwan over these past decades" and the TRA has served as an anchor of "peace and stability."

In his address, President Ma laid out the historical and political significance of the TRA and the diplomatic path hewed by its enactment:

The TRA was enacted in 1979 by the U.S. Congress to cope with the Taiwan situation after the U.S. had switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing. It replaced the terribly inadequate arrangement of the Carter Administration, by keeping all aspects of the Taiwan-U.S. relationship intact except, of course, formal diplomatic ties, a mutual defense treaty and the stationing of American troops in Taiwan. One American commentator said in 1979 that while the U.S.-China Joint Communiqué establishing diplomatic relations derecognized Taiwan, the Taiwan Relations Act has re-recognized it. My Harvard professor Detlev Vagt said to me after the passing of the TRA that Taiwan is the most recognized unrecognized government of the U.S.

In an imperfect world, the TRA, which largely accommodates Taiwan's needs for continuity, reality, security, legality and governmental status in the new Taiwan-U.S. relationship, is the second-best choice for Taiwan. Today the TRA is more than a convenient solution to a political dilemma. Its very existence changed the evolutionary course of cross-strait development by stabilizing the triangular relationship among Taiwan, the United States and mainland China.

President Ma also addressed the need to promote Taiwan's economic growth and to take the necessary steps to ensure Taiwan's rightful place in our global economy:

We believe that rapprochement with mainland China will improve Taiwan's prospects for expanding our international space. Certainly, the international community will benefit significantly from this change, whether by capitalizing on the new business opportunities thereby made available or simply by no longer being caught in volatile cross-strait relations. For example, the establishment of the Three Links has made it logistically feasible and economically cost-effective to fly, ship or send mail across the Taiwan Strait.

The establishment of direct cross-strait travel and transport provides an incentive for the international community to include Taiwan in regional economic arrangements in East Asia. In fact, right after we inaugurated the Three Links across the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan was able to join the Government Procurement Agreement last December, which we had been unable to participate in when we became a member of the World Trade Organization six years ago. This new development is good news to many potential foreign investors in the U.S., Japan and Europe.

The United States interest will always be in the defense of democracy and in honoring our

commitment to the protection of democratic institutions and peoples. President Ma also expressed his commitment to these same principles:

In fact, Taiwan has much to offer foreign investors. We are a country with a sophisticated legal infrastructure, a democratically open and stable political system and a viable and liberal economy.

We therefore want to end Taiwan's isolation from the world by putting our economic relations with the Chinese mainland on a more normal footing. At the same time, the more contentious political issues will be left on the back burner. We will put off political talks until after a firm foundation for economic, cultural and educational exchanges has been established and buttressed by reciprocal trust and confidence on both sides.

Strengthening the relationship between the United States and Taiwan is essential. This Congress must continue to remain firm in our commitment to Taiwan and meet our obligations under the TRA, as President Ma expressed:

Undoubtedly, the resilience of the TRA and the recent cross-strait détente have opened new opportunities for Taiwan, the U.S. and the mainland to pave a common path towards cooperation, instead of confrontation. This new equilibrium can result in a win-win-win situation for all sides. Obviously, America's role is pivotal. For peace negotiations to continue, the United States is well advised to not only reaffirm but also bolster its commitments under the TRA. The new-found rapprochement with the mainland only means we must with equal, if not greater, effort work to fortify U.S.-Taiwan relations on the basis of mutual trust. This I believe calls for an expansion of bilateral interaction especially at higher levels so as to always guarantee clear communication and better cooperation. Furthermore, a strong commitment in U.S. arms sales and support for expanding Taiwan's international space will enhance our position in face of a power imbalance now rapidly developing across the strait.

Therefore, we come here today not only to commemorate a historic point in cross-strait relations, but, more importantly, to celebrate the endurance of Taiwan-U.S. relations. The strength of the TRA is more vital and crucial at this critical juncture of development than ever before. U.S.-Taiwan relations, the stability of the status quo and even the entire region hangs in the balance. Therefore, I call on Taiwan and the United States to continue to honor the commitments that have bound their destinies together in common friendship and interest for the past three decades.

Madam Speaker, it is my express hope that as we move forward from this 30th Anniversary, the United States and Taiwan will continue to recognize the importance of our shared destinies and act accordingly for the preservation and promotion of our shared values.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1913, the

Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. I am a cosponsor of this legislation because we must do all that we can to protect those who are injured because of their gender, sexual orientation, race, religion, or disability.

Hate crimes can occur in any community—even one as wonderful and diverse as mine. On July 4, 1999—when we should have been celebrating the welcoming and embracing traditions of our great country, my district was rocked by the killing spree of the white supremacist, Benjamin Nathaniel Smith. This madman left us grieving for Ricky Byrdsong, a former Northwestern University coach, a well-known community leader, a deeply religious man, a man who was committed to his family. His only crime was the color of his skin—he was African-American. Smith also murdered Won Joon Yoon, an Asian American student from Indiana.

The bill we are considering today takes an important step toward making America a more just society, by closing a glaring loophole in our justice system that prevents the Federal Government from prosecuting cases where women, gay, transgender or disabled persons are victims of bias-motivated crimes for who they are. These crimes not only devastate victims and their family and friends, but they devastate the community to which the victim belongs by creating fear and intimidation. Hate crimes chip away at the very foundations of what it means to be an American—that all people are created equal and are afforded the same freedoms and protections.

America must no longer ignore hate crimes of any kind. Everyone, regardless of race, sexual, orientation and gender identity, must be equal in the eyes of the law. The passage of H.R. 1913 will send the powerful message that America stands for tolerance and inclusion, and is opposed to prejudice in all its forms. I want to thank my good friend, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN, and the entire LGBT Equality Caucus for their tireless work to get this bill passed and urge my colleagues to vote "yes" to H.R. 1913.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration of the bill (H.R. 627) to amend the Truth in Lending Act to establish fair and transparent practices relating to the extension of credit under an open end consumer credit plan, and for other purposes:

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Chair, I am disappointed that Congressman MURPHY and I will not have the opportunity to offer our amendment to the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act which would require credit card companies to report on marketing agreements with institutions of higher education and alumni associations. The amendment also would direct the Government Accountability Office to analyze and report to Congress the impact of these arrangements on student credit card debt. To that end, today we will be introducing this amendment as a stand-alone bill, the Student Credit Card Transparency Act of 2009.

According to a recent study, students are now graduating with an average credit card debt of more than \$4,100, up from \$2,900 just four years ago. The average number of cards per student has grown to 4.6, with over half of college students reporting they have four or more cards. The combined impact of credit card debt and growing student loan debt can greatly limit a student's future career choice. Furthermore, compounding debt from late payments and high penalties can further jeopardize a young person's financial future by making it difficult to take out their first mortgage, buy a car or even rent an apartment.

As I'm sure we all know through our own experiences or through our children's, college students have become prime targets for credit card marketing campaigns. Most students enter college without a credit card and are quickly saturated with e-mails, direct mailings and on-campus solicitations to sign up for their first credit card. A recent report by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group revealed that, of the students they surveyed, 80 percent said they had received mail from credit card companies. Students reported receiving an average of nearly five mailed solicitations per month. In addition, 22 percent of students reported receiving an average of nearly four phone calls per month from credit card companies.

While the practice of targeting college students may not be much of a surprise, students and parents may be alarmed to learn that many colleges, universities and alumni associations have entered into lucrative agreements with these companies to allow exclusive marketing of their cards. In these arrangements, schools receive large cash payments in exchange for handing over their students' contact information—such as address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers. These confidential agreements may also go further and give companies exclusive face-to-face access to students on campus, such as during sporting events or at the student union. Some provide the university or alumni with additional money based on a percentage of purchases using the card.

Despite the fact that hundreds of schools throughout the country have such arrangements, very little is known about them. Last year's "pay to play" scandal in the guaranteed student loan program exposed the practice of lenders and financial aid administrators putting their own interests ahead of their students' when it came to compiling their "preferred lender list." While arrangements between credit card companies and schools don't necessarily mean the student's financial interests are being harmed, I believe it is imperative to have at a minimum a better understanding of these arrangements. For instance, are schools and associated foundations making arrangements with companies that offer the best rates for their students?

This bill simply seeks greater transparency by requiring credit card companies to report these arrangements. Then Congress, students and parents will be able to judge whether these agreements reflect the best interests of students or that of the school or related institution.

I am happy to have the support of the United States Students Association, USPIRG, Consumer Federation of America, National Association of College Admissions Counselors, and the American Association of Collegiate