

support this bill. I hope that we can improve this bill during any conference with the Senate or if it is included in a larger Homeland Security authorization bill by removing this two-year extension on meeting the cargo screening requirement.

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KAREN WOODBURY

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Karen Woodbury of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Karen is active in the community and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Volunteerism.

Karen Woodbury is the Master of Social Work Off-Campus Coordinator in Northwest Missouri for the University of Missouri School of Social Work. As a social worker, Karen has translated her professional commitment to community advocacy into meeting many needs of the St. Joseph community through countless hours of volunteerism. Karen was a pioneer in establishing the Choices program in the St. Joseph School District middle schools for the YWCA. She served on the YWCA St. Joseph Board of Directors for several years and is a past co-chair of the steering committee of Women of Excellence.

Karen has assisted several organizations to develop programs to meet community needs. She helped the Buchanan County Juvenile Office to create a program for young teen women to divert them from the juvenile justice system and was awarded the Missouri Juvenile Justice Award of Excellence in 1998 for this program. She has served on the St. Joseph Safety Council, the United Cerebral Palsy Board of Board of Directors and on the Buchanan County Social Welfare Board. Karen also helped to establish the Social Welfare Board's counseling program for indigent clients. She was awarded the Roy Blunt Citation for Literacy in 1998 for her work with middle school age girls.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Karen Woodbury. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

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LAURA BAKKEN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 11, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Laura Bakken of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Laura is active in the community through her work and has been chosen to

receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in the Workplace.

Laura Bakken serves as the Spanish interpreter for the Head Start at Community Action Partnership, and is certified in "Los Ninos Bien Educados," a nationally acclaimed curriculum for strengthening Hispanic families and enhancing parenting success. Laura recruits low income Hispanic families to participate in the Head Start program. She was nominated by her peers for excellence in performance and is currently training colleagues about cultural diversity. Laura uses her interpretation skills throughout the community to assist children and families. "To make a community better, it starts with the people. If everyone can adopt one family, and help that one, and get them on their feet, then it'll be a chain reaction." Laura has faced the challenge of overcoming an abusive childhood, homelessness as a teenager, breast cancer, and physical disability to become a survivor and a nurturer. As her nominator describes her, "She defies the odds and simply gets the job done, making the world a brighter, prettier place just by the doing."

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Laura Bakken. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.