

of hopeful youths for the public service of the country in future times." And so a one-room schoolhouse was built on New Haven Green bearing Hopkins name. From that seed, a fine educational institution has flourished.

In the centuries since, Hopkins has molded many Connecticut youths into fine public servants. Among the school's esteemed alumni are a signer of the United States Constitution, several noted engineers and prize-winning physicists, diplomats and industrialists, Governors, Senators, and more than a few presidents of Yale University.

To this day, from its home since 1926 on a hill overlooking New Haven, Hopkins still continues to mold our state's bright young minds into leaders and innovators. With an average class size of fourteen, an educational philosophy that prizes extracurricular activities, public service, and engaged citizenship in addition to the usual academic subjects, and an inclusive community that welcomes young men and women of all races, classes, ethnicities, and creeds, it is little wonder that Hopkins continually produces students that place among the top of the nation in standardized testing.

I congratulate Hopkins and its current Head, Barbara Riley, on three and a half centuries of academic achievement. And I salute the school's continuing service to the colony, state, and young people of Connecticut. Here is to the first 350, and here's to many more.

EXTENDING EFFECTIVE DATE OF GIFT CARD PROVISIONS OF CREDIT CARD LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5502, a bill I was proud to cosponsor. I commend Mr. MAFFEI for his leadership on this important bill, allowing for a short transition period for gift card issuers to comply with disclosure requirements that were part of the CARD Act that became law in May 2009.

This bill would provide a short extension for certain disclosure requirements associated with gift certificates, store gift cards, and general-use prepaid cards produced prior to April 1, 2010. The transition will allow the industry to continue to sell its pre-existing gift card inventory that is in compliance with the new CARD Act rules, as it becomes compliant with the disclosures that take effect August 22, 2010. This action will prevent a disruption to consumer access, as well as for large business in trying to remove the millions of gift cards currently in the stream of commerce.

I fully respect the time and work of the Federal Reserve Board in drafting the final rules governing the gift card industry. However, in moving towards compliance, we need to ensure consumers are not inconvenienced, and I believe this legislation achieves that appropriate balance.

CELEBRATING LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, just over 40 years ago, a police raid on a gay bar in Greenwich Village made history. The so-called Stonewall riots, during which members of the gay community openly challenged institutionalized homophobia, marked the beginning of the modern Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, LGBT, rights movement and led to the formation of gay rights organizations across the United States and around the world. Each June, we commemorate this ongoing struggle for equality by celebrating LGBT Pride Month.

It is indeed a historic time for our nation and the American people. What should have happened 17 years ago is now closer to being a reality than ever before. By passing the Murphy Amendment along with the Defense Authorization bill, the House of Representatives has pledged to fulfill its promise of upholding the values for which the United States stands by allowing gay and lesbian Americans to serve openly in the military. As I have said time and again, the discriminatory law known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" should be repealed once and for all. It threatens our national security and costs us millions of dollars each year to kick out dedicated and highly-skilled service members and to retrain new ones.

As we celebrate this victory, we are reminded of the long battle that has brought us to this point. I would be terribly remiss if I did not acknowledge the hard work and sacrifices of the countless service members and veterans, many of whose lives have been negatively impacted by this bigoted policy, as well as those military and policy leaders, advocacy organizations, and everyday Americans who have taken a stand against discrimination.

I am also pleased that President Obama and his administration have taken meaningful steps toward achieving LGBT equality. Most recently, President Obama extended a wider range of benefits to the same-sex partners of federal employees, including key protections such as long-term care insurance, health insurance reimbursements, business travel accident insurance, and tax reimbursements for homeowner's insurance. In April, President Obama also mandated that all hospitals extend visitation rights to the partners of gay men and lesbians and that they respect patients' choices about who may make critical health care decisions for them.

More than ever before, the fight for LGBT equality is full of hope and promise. But, our work is far from over. The sad reality is that gay and lesbian Americans are still essentially second-class citizens, with different rights depending on where they work and the state in which they live. This nation can only truly prosper when all of its citizens are guaranteed equal protection under the law. Laws that deprive LGBT Americans of these rights are unconstitutional, discriminatory, and unconscionable. It is my sincere hope that Congress and our nation as a whole will work together to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA, repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, DOMA, and lift the ban on men who have sex with men, MSM, donating blood.

Madam Speaker, the LGBT community is part of our American family. They are our friends and neighbors and all contribute to this great nation. We must ensure that the pages of history only continue to turn forward on equality for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. This LGBT Pride Month, I reaffirm my resolve to achieve equal rights for LGBT Americans and nothing less. It is the right thing to do.

HONORING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF LE BONHEUR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND THE GRAND OPENING OF THEIR NEW FACILITY

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 58th Anniversary of Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and the grand opening of their new, state-of-the-art facility in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. Located in the heart of the Memphis medical district, the new 255-bed hospital makes Le Bonheur the largest pediatric health-care facility in the state, serving over 130,000 children each year.

Since opening its doors on June 15, 1952, Le Bonheur Children's Hospital has long stood as a shining beacon of service to Memphis and the surrounding community, providing health care and emergency treatment to children of all ages from 95 counties in six states. Over the decades, the facility has established an international reputation as a leader in both pediatric research and clinical care while serving as one of the country's foremost teaching hospitals. Partnerships with other premier hospitals such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center have further solidified Le Bonheur's world-class standing.

In addition to serving the region's healthcare needs, Le Bonheur continues to serve as one of the largest employers in the Memphis area, providing jobs to over 2,000 medical professionals while supporting over 14,000 other jobs in the community through a combination of direct and indirect economic contributions. Furthermore, the construction of the new facility has provided on average 650 jobs each day since the February 2008 ground breaking. Moreover, the increased size of the campus itself will result in the creation of almost 100 new jobs over the next 12–24 months.

The grand opening of the new 12-story, 610,000-square-foot hospital marks an exciting new chapter in the life of Le Bonheur. The \$340 million facility will provide the Le Bonheur staff with \$20 million in new equipment and technology as well as nearly double the hospital's current space, significantly increasing the capacity for research, education, patient care, and family comforts such as more sleeping space for parents, playrooms, gathering areas and even a first-run movie theatre.

In keeping with their reputation as an exemplar in the Memphis area, Le Bonheur has striven to ensure that their new facility is as environmentally efficient as possible. The new