

IN OPPOSITION TO AMENDMENT  
468 TO H.R. 1, CONTINUING AP-  
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, under current law, the Lifeline program provides Americans struggling to climb out of poverty and get back on their feet a choice to receive a landline phone or a mobile phone subsidized by the Universal Service Fund. In my district of Sacramento, we have 25,000, and in the State of California we have approximately 2 million, residents who benefit from this service.

Low income people use Lifeline service to look for a job, call their doctors, reach their child care providers, or contact their family in an emergency.

But Amendment No. 468 would eliminate USF funding for mobile phone service for the poorest Americans, and maintain it only for landline phones, forcing poor people to stay at home waiting for important calls, rather than getting out of their homes to look for a job.

I have heard from many of my constituents in Sacramento who are concerned about the high costs of services, and would be impacted by these cuts to Lifeline services.

I have heard from a woman who is living off a fixed income and is counting her pennies each month to make ends meet. If her bill goes up "by one cent", she says she will have to drop her service. The Lifeline program allows her to stay connected in an increasingly connected society.

Another one of my constituents, who is disabled, can't afford in-home broadband services, and is forced to commute miles to the nearest library to access the Internet. But these all day excursions means that he misses important calls, and if something were to happen to him while he was out without a mobile phone, he would have no ability to call a friend, family member, or 911 for help. This Amendment would take that cell phone away.

Moreover, this Amendment would not return any monies to the U.S. Treasury. The Universal Service Fund is supported entirely by telephone users—not taxpayers.

In short, this Amendment picks technological winners and losers. It ignores input from legislators who have expertise on these issues. The House Energy and Commerce Committee plans to hold hearings on the Universal Service Fund this year, and the Federal Communications Commission announced its intention to review the Lifeline program.

Finally, the amendment limits both economic opportunity and discourages employment security. Studies by the Opinion Research Corporation and MIT have found that cell phones are extremely important to an individual's economic productivity and earning power. Having access to a cell phone in order to get a "call back" is essential for Americans who are out of work. When the rest of America is cutting their landlines, this amendment is forcing the poorest among us to rely on a dying technology, which the free market has rejected.

We should be expanding the lifeline program to broadband and mobile phones, technologies that are in high demand, and empower consumers to pursue a job, an education, or new career training.

For all of these reasons, I strongly oppose this Amendment, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN SUPPORT OF AMENDMENT 325  
TO H.R. 1, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

### HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express support for Amendment 325, offered by Mr. BLUMENAUER, to restore funding to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support as well.

Recently, I spoke to one of my constituents who expressed his sorrow to me at the prospect of losing public broadcasting services. As he put it, he pays less than two dollars a year in taxes for the service, but it brightens his day every morning that he listens to his favorite public radio shows. To him, it was a simple equation of value for money.

He specifically voiced his support for National Public Radio (NPR) and Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). NPR is a public-private membership media organization that syndicates programming for hundreds of public radio stations across the country. Individual member stations, such as local university stations are required to be non-commercial, and educational in nature, and are not required to broadcast all NPR programming.

And despite what I have heard from my colleagues, the truth is that only about two percent of NPR funding is directly provided by the federal government, under the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), which also funds PBS. The reality is that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting receives around .0001% of the annual federal budget. Eliminating that funding would save Americans less than half a cent a day, and in doing so, eliminate a valuable educational, cultural, and community resource.

But the value of the services are unending. As a former board chair of my district's local PBS TV station, I can attest to the value local programming offers to my constituents. I hear from families, seniors, and everyday commuters who use public broadcasting to get local news, to learn something new about the world, and teachers who use its educational programming in their classrooms.

Moreover, public TV and radio stations employ over 17,000 people across the country—jobs that no one can afford to lose—and especially not now.

Mr. Chair, the number of listeners and viewers speak for themselves. Every month, over 170 million Americans use public media—through 368 public television stations, 934 public radio stations, hundreds of online services, education services, and in-person events and activities. Every month over half of all Americans use public media.

Defunding public broadcasting would be a deep and misguided error, and would lose our country a great resource.

Maintaining support for public, educational, and government channels and networks is necessary to facilitate communication, and I am dedicated to ensuring that citizens have access to tools that inform, educate, and encourage interest in local activities.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on Amendment 325, and to uphold the legacy of American public broadcasting.

HONORING LORRAINE BOCCIO FOR  
HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO  
HUNTINGTON STATION, NY

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor someone in my district who has given much to those in need. Lorraine Boccio of Huntington Station, NY, has recently been diagnosed with stage 3 pancreatic cancer and I'd like to take a moment to share some of the good work she has done.

Lorraine works in customer service at a local supermarket but spends her spare time committed to service as well. Every year she collects and mails packages to troops overseas and holds annual events for veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. These events bring out hundreds of veterans and Lorraine conducts the fundraising, planning, and execution of these events. She also attends funerals and wakes of fallen troops on Long Island and collects cards from schoolchildren in the South Huntington School District for veterans.

Lorraine is also fiercely supportive of her local police and fire departments. For the holidays in December 2001, Lorraine collected and distributed food, clothing and toys to all of the children in Huntington who lost a loved one in the September 11 attacks. She takes every opportunity to honor her local police, fire, and EMS workers, including organizing fundraisers, visiting those who are injured, and paying tribute to those who served in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

Finally, throughout the year Lorraine organizes food drives, "adopts" families with troubles such as a child with an illness or a house fire, and donates food and supplies to Huntington's Little Animal Shelter.

Lorraine brightens the lives of her neighbors every day while working in customer service at her day job and helps anyone and everyone in need in her community. I wish her all the best for a speedy recovery and hope that the community to which she has given so much supports her in the fight of her life.

### SETH KING TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 18, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand and pay sincere tribute to the life of Seth King. Sadly the city of Pueblo, Colorado, will have to continue on without the talents and gifts of the revered local legend. Mr. King was a barber and clinical chemist by trade, but he represented much more to the Pueblo community.

The owner and operator of King's Barber shop, Seth King cut hair for 45 years and had a positive effect on the lives of countless individuals. Mr. King moved to Pueblo as a young