

participate in all aspects of education effectively transforming the educational landscape of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, women have taken great strides throughout the years to gain equal treatment. Unfortunately, in matters involving healthcare, women still face challenges. Very recently, women faced attacks by the House Republican majority regarding access to birth control. More disconcerting, these attacks escalated beyond misguided attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act and deny women access to contraceptives, to restricting women's choices in the area of reproductive health altogether. Medical decisions about a woman's health must be left to the discretion of the patient and her doctor, not employers or the government.

This is why I am proud to support President Obama's Affordable Care Act which will make a positive impact on women's access to health care and greatly decrease the number of women who are uninsured or "underinsured." Studies have shown that women who have health insurance don't necessarily receive certain types of medical care because either the services they need are not covered by their policies, or they cannot afford the high deductibles or co-payments. The Affordable Care Act changes this unfortunate reality by assisting women in gaining access to basic preventive health care in order to prevent life-threatening diseases in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of women and their immeasurable contributions to this great Nation. As we pay tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to progress have proved invaluable to society, let us also renew our commitment to support women and the equal treatment of all in society, regardless of gender, race, or religion.

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#### WOMEN'S HEALTH WEDNESDAYS

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish the majority cared as much about creating jobs as they do about undermining women's reproductive rights.

Contraception is basic preventive women's health care. Simple as that. It should be affordable and widely available. Women should have access to it without a copay, no matter where they work.

Birth control saves lives. Women should give it up just as soon as men forfeit coverage for viagra.

Contraception is guided by sound science and best health care practices. The majority on the other hand is motivated by divisive and inflexible ideology.

The Republicans should take their own advice. They say they hate big government. Well, I can't think of any government bigger and more intrusive than the one that tells women how to conduct their personal lives and what to do with their bodies.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYRACUSE RESCUE MISSION

### HON. ANN MARIE BUERKLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Ms. BUERKLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 125th Anniversary of the Syracuse Rescue Mission.

Since being founded in 1887, the Rescue Mission has served the homeless of Central New York from three different community locations.

For 125 years, the dedicated staff and volunteers of the Rescue Mission have not only changed lives, but completely turned them around. The organization's mission is to help everyone move toward independence. They teach the unemployed skills needed to find a job, build housing for the homeless, provide assistance for addicts, and hold fundraisers and free meal programs for those in need. The Rescue Mission serves people with the dignity and respect that they deserve and understand that by helping an individual they are ultimately making their community a better place.

I congratulate the Rescue Mission on their 125th anniversary and sincerely thank everyone at the organization for their dedication and service to the Central New York community. I know that they will continue to demonstrate integrity and excellence through their benevolent deeds and that the Rescue Mission will continue to be a beacon of hope for many years to come.

#### HONORING IBEW LOCAL 716 ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2012*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 716 for their 100 years of dedication to improving the life of not only its members but electricians across the Houston area.

As one of the largest unions in America, IBEW represents approximately 750,000 workers of a variety of occupations including construction, utilities, telecommunications, broadcasting, manufacturing, railroads and government. The hard work of IBEW members does not benefit them alone but also enhances the quality of life for electricians across the United States by securing adequate wages, high-quality health insurance, retirement, pensions and creating safer working conditions.

Since 1912, Local Union 716 has helped raise the standard of living for tens of thousands of electricians and their families. Local Union 716 has assisted its members during this difficult economic time by helping to ensure its members keep the jobs they have and help those without find employment. This union has continuously worked to not only uphold the goals of the national organization but also dedicate its services to improving the moral, intellectual and social conditions of their members and families. Through their apprenticeship program, the IBEW has trained and developed craftsmen into highly skilled professionals who know and understand the many facets of electrical work including the dangers and the safety precautions required to mitigate those dangers. The union has worked with the management staff of several companies to promote safe working conditions and improve company training programs.

Local Union 716 is also known in the community for promoting citizens to get out and vote. They have participated, along with several other organizations, in neighborhood block walking events to hand out door hangers and motivate their neighbors to take part in government by going to the polls and voicing their opinions.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 716 for their success and dedication to improving life for its members and their community as a whole for 100 years.