

Today's bill purports to increase pediatric research by \$13 million per year by terminating public financing for political conventions. Assuming last year's 5 percent sequester at NIH was spread evenly across their programs, then pediatric research would have been cut by roughly \$182 million in 2013. The bill's \$13 million would return less than 10 percent of the funding to pediatric research that was lost to sequester last year. On top of that, the bill doesn't actually appropriate any funding, but instead authorizes appropriations, which does not guarantee that these funds will be available.

Mr. Speaker, today's bill isn't a sincere effort to increase funding for pediatric research and it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone. Since the Republican majority took office in 2011, they've racked up a dismal record on NIH, having cut its budget by total of \$4.2 billion or 13 percent when adjusted for inflation. If Republicans are really serious about pediatric research, and in fact want to put kids first, then they should work with us to replace the sequester with a balanced budget package.

LORETTA DITIRRO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Loretta DiTirro for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Loretta is an extremely passionate and persuasive individual, especially when it comes to community. She was instrumental in changing the name of the Wheat Ridge Business Association, to help give more definition to the purpose and future of the group. Loretta ensures that the Wheat Ridge business members are well informed and well connected to the community at large, and she drove the membership from 30 to 200 members. She hosts events in her home to raise money for the Feed the Future Backpack Program, giving back to the children of her community. She opened up her garden for the Inaugural Wheat Ridge Garden Tour, and recruits volunteers for the historic Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival. As an influential leader and organizer, she is a valuable asset to the Wheat Ridge and Jefferson County communities.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Loretta DiTirro for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF MRS. EVELYN STEVENS

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to honor Mrs. Evelyn Stevens, a member of my staff for almost seventeen years. Evelyn is retiring this year after over 34

years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Evelyn began working for my predecessor, Congressman Tom Beville, in 1979 and has worked continuously since then with passion and dedication for the constituents of the current Fourth Congressional District of Alabama. It would be difficult to count the number of constituents that she has helped during her tenure with the Fourth District of Alabama.

Evelyn was married for almost 40 years to Milton "Bud" Stevens and has two daughters, Renita Rigney and Amelia Sutter. She has five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren with two more great-grandchildren soon to be born. She enjoys traveling with her daughters and takes the time to visit a different baseball stadium in the country during a trip they take every year. Evelyn is also an avid bowler, bowling every Tuesday evening with her team.

Few people can look back on their life and see that they have contributed so much to the well-being of their fellow citizens and their country. Evelyn Stevens is one of those people.

On behalf of myself and all the people of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District, I can never thank her enough for her hard work and dedication to serving the people of Alabama and the United States of America.

May God bless Evelyn in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, December 12, 2013, I missed rollcall vote No. 641 for unavoidable reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 641: "aye" (On passage of H. Res. 441.)

COLLEEN JORGENSEN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Colleen Jorgensen for her outstanding service and commitment to our community.

Despite facing numerous public education funding cuts, Colleen found a way to launch a campaign to make Red Rocks Community College "green," resulting in reduced paper consumption, in a recycling program, and a boiler system that reduced 30% of carbon emissions. She has translated the value of mentorship into Community Learning Centers, the Gateway program, and a shadowing program for potential Principal Investigators. Colleen stays active in her greater community by serving on numerous boards and area chambers. Colleen's creativity and innovation in education has left a lasting impact on thousands of college students, hundreds of colleagues and the business community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Colleen Jorgensen for her well deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County.

I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

BURMA

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, despite U.S. officials continuing to celebrate the alleged "opening" of Burma and planning projects such as bringing electricity to the entire country, we need to stop and listen to the people of Burma. The ethnic groups have a different story to tell, one which does not support U.S. agencies' narrative. Ethnic minorities are not celebrating this alleged "opening." Instead, they continue to be forced to defend themselves from offensive attacks by the Burma army and regime.

Some officials in Washington act as if democracy has suddenly infused all levels of government and all policies in Burma, including by welcoming and feting Shwe Mann, the 3rd ranking official in the "former" dictatorship who is now serving as the Speaker of the Combined House of Parliament. The people of Burma are still fighting for freedom of speech, conscience, belief, and association. Political prisoners still languish in prison, the Muslim minority has been brutally attacked by factions of the Buddhist majority with nary an outcry by Aung San Suu Kyi or other democratically elected leaders, and Kachin women and girls are still raped by soldiers bent on purifying minority bloodlines. How can a government that continues to implement policies that directly contradict democratic principles be so embraced by the international community, including by U.S. officials?

What is wrong with this picture? The Administration is supporting those in favor of removing a dictatorship in one country while embracing a brutal dictatorship in another country. How is it that in one area of the world, our government has provided training and weapons to groups working against a dictatorship—even as some members of the opposition may have direct links to Al Qaeda—while in Burma, we have turned our backs on a population that has longed for democracy, freedom, and the protection of basic rights?

These inconsistent policies are deeply disturbing. "Former" dictators who truly desired to establish a democracy would stop using forced labor in military projects; would end horrific attacks against the Kachin, Northern Shan and Taang communities; would cease rearming, rebuilding, and resupplying their bases in ethnic territories; and would discontinue using bait and switch tactics in negotiations.

In recent negotiations between the Burma Government and the ethnic groups, the Government acts as if the ethnic groups should prove that they are trustworthy in terms of any ceasefire agreement. I would strongly posit that it's the other way around: the Government of Burma must prove its trustworthiness to the ethnic groups by ending its aggression before any ceasefire occurs. The ethnic minorities have simply defended their people and states when under attacks initiated by the Burma government. It is time for those attacks to

stop, it is time for the Burma Army to withdraw from the ethnic areas, and it is time for the international community to stop indirectly facilitating the blatant racism in Burma by normalizing every relationship with the regime Burma and instead express exceptional disappointment with the failure to move forward towards honest political dialogue and true democracy.

I call on the Government of Burma to prove its commitment to democracy and peace by unconditionally and immediately ending the horrific attacks against ethnic minorities and fully withdrawing from their territories. Earn the trust of the people by showing, over the long term, that you truly have turned 180 degrees and will implement democratic principles instead of imposing a dictatorship on the population.

I call on the Obama Administration to embrace the reality in Burma. Listen to what the people who live inside Burma say they desire. They want to live in peace, but that will not happen until the Burma Government and Army stop their attacks against the ethnic groups and enact a nationwide ceasefire. The U.S. Administration needs to stop its direct and indirect support for the Burma Government and Army by discontinuing assistance until specific benchmarks are met, by delaying any Pentagon training until all attacks against minorities cease, and by ensuring the ethnic nationality groups are given a full and equal place at the table to help decide the future of their country.

To the ethnic nationalities of Burma—stand your ground. You deserve to have your rights and freedoms protected and you deserve an equal place at the table to decide the future of your country.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL AND THE WORLD OF WONDERS SCIENCE PROGRAM

**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Liberty High School in Brentwood, California. Liberty High School was the recipient of the Lawrence Livermore National Security's (LLNS) Community Gift Program for the school's AP Environmental Science and Calculus Classes. These classes engage students in science through a water quality monitoring project that allows students to sample, analyze, and interpret water quality data for Marsh Creek.

I also want to recognize the World of Wonders Science Museum in Lodi, California, which also was a recipient of the LLNS Community Gift Program. This museum offers hands-on, science-based exhibits and programs to disadvantaged schools within San Joaquin County.

Engaging young people in science, technology, math, and education programs is key to ensuring that the United States remains a world leader in technology advancements and innovation. We must challenge our children intellectually and find ways to keep them interested in making our world a better place.

It is in the classroom, the home, and our community that children are inspired to learn

and explore. Liberty High School and the World of Wonders Science Museum represent what can be accomplished when all partners involved work together.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Liberty High School and the World of Wonders Science Museum for earning a competitive grant and for the work they do with children in our community.

HONORING MARTHA LOPEZ

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Martha Lopez arrived here from Mexico City when she was 15, attended and graduated from Mamaroneck High School. She went on to get her B.A. in Sociology from Lehman College and a Master's degree in Social Work from Columbia University.

She worked for the Washingtonville Housing Alliance for more than 17 years as the assistant director. While there she involved herself in a variety of community activities including as a Founding Member of the Board of Directors of KEEPS, an after-school program for children in Mamaroneck, and as a Founding Member and Chair of Voz y Vida at St. Vito's Church which helps Hispanic families adjust to the United States and easing the problems of day laborers in Mamaroneck. Voz y Vida received the Martin Luther King Award from the Mamaroneck Tri-Commission Human Rights Committee in 1993.

She is also a member of the Westchester Hispanic Advisory Board, Secretary to the Board of Directors, Emelin Theater, and Co-founding the Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont/Mamaroneck and served for two years its president.

She received the Dr. Martin Luther King Human Rights Award, for her efforts on behalf of immigrants

In 2001 Martha was named Director for Hispanic Affairs for Westchester County, serving as a bridge between government programs and services and the Westchester Hispanic community.

In 2010 Martha oversaw the village-wide educational campaign that complied with the Federal Voting Rights Case settlement of Port Chester.

She is presently Bilingual Election Inspector Coordinator with Westchester County Board of Elections where she manages a county-wide training program for more than 200 bilingual (English-Spanish) election inspectors.

She and her husband Dennis Hanratty, Executive Director of Mount Vernon United Tenants, have two children. Louis and Jason.

Martha Lopez has compiled an extraordinary record of accomplishments for the Hispanic community and for Westchester County and I am proud to join with the Hispanic Democrats of Westchester in honoring her.

TRIBUTE TO LESLIE A. MILLIN

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Leslie A. Millin, Sr. a

former Director of Personnel for the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands, who recently passed away after a long illness. Leslie A. Millin was a career public servant, a community activist and a man committed to our territory.

He will be remembered for his hard work and dedication to civil service and his commitment to improving the quality of life, not just for government employees, but for all Virgin Islanders.

Leslie Millin, Sr. was first appointed to Director of Personnel, by our first elected governor, the Honorable Melvin E. Evans in 1972. Under his directorship, a voluntary Health Insurance Plan was established. He continued his service during the administration of former Governor Juan Luis, and was the last Personnel Director to administer both the Government Employees Retirement System and the Personnel System of the Virgin Islands government. Under the administration of the Honorable Roy L. Schneider, he served as Director of Human Resources and Comptroller of the Department of Public Works.

Leslie Millin, Sr. came from a family for whom public service was first nature. He is the grandson of the first female Virgin Islands Senator Lucinda Millin, the son of the third elect Lieutenant Governor Henry A. Millin and the brother of sitting Virgin Islands senator Janet Millin Young and the father of current Commissioner of Property and Procurement Lynn Millin Maduro.

As we remember Leslie Millin, Sr.'s example of public service, I offer my condolences to his wife, Daisy-Mae, his sister, Senator Janet Millin Young, his children, to include Commissioner Lynn Millin Maduro and his many other relatives, friends and colleagues who are all saddened by his passing. On behalf of my family and staff, I extend my sympathies. May he rest in peace.

HONORING CHIEF MARK McCORMICK

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 19, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Mark McCormick, who is retiring after more than 20 years of service with the Santa Rosa Fire Department.

Mark has been a member of the Santa Rosa Fire Department for more than 20 years, during which time he has served our community in a number of capacities. He has served as a Firefighter, Fire Captain, Fire Inspector as well as the Department's Deputy Fire Chief and City Fire Marshal. Mr. McCormick was appointed Fire Chief on September 1st, 2011.

His long and storied career began 32 years ago when he served his country in the United States Air Force in Anchorage, Alaska. After being honorably discharged from the Air Force, he began his post-military career in firefighting with both the City of Corona and the Orange County Fire Departments prior to moving to Santa Rosa in 1991.

During his tenure with the SRFD Mark saw many successes, including the expansion of the department's service territory with the construction of Fire Station-10 and Station-11. In