Beginning with a mere 600 households in 1993, membership in Christian Care Ministry’s Medi-Share program has skyrocketed over the last 25 years. Through Medi-Share, over $2.6 billion in medical bills has been shared and discounted by more than 400,000 members across the nation.

“Launched from a kitchen table at our home, Christian Care Ministry has served hundreds of thousands through providing a mechanism for mutual care. I am proud to have founded this ministry and to have been part of what it has meant to so many,” Reinhold shared.

After the passage of the Affordable Care Act, Christians recognized an opportunity to be part of something bigger than healthcare—a sharing community that met the requirements of the new healthcare law without compromising their values.

Christian Care Ministry has not only helped many to faithfully handle expensive medical bills, it has also been a boon to the economy of Brevard County.

The mayor of Melbourne, Kathy Meehan, stated, “by providing more than 430 jobs at its Melbourne headquarters and making significant financial investments in its facility, Christian Care Ministry has made a substantial economic impact on our community. We are proud to have the ministry in the City of Melbourne and are grateful for the benefits it has provided to our community for the past 25 years.”

Christian Care Ministry has more than 600 faithful and dedicated employees nationwide and are proud of their diligence in providing outstanding customer service. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Christian Care Ministry for 25 years of service and for their dedication to assisting those who need medical care.

PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF
HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM
OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. McCollum. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Protect Medical Innovation Act of 2017 (H.R. 184).

The medical device industry serves a vital role in Minnesota by supporting thousands of jobs and providing lifesaving technology. Nonetheless, repealing the medical device tax without a fiscal offset only intensifies the already unbalanced budget. The Republican saboteurs of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) represent 700,000 constituents and the majority have made it clear the ongoing attacks on the ACA and our healthcare system are intolerable. Therefore, I cannot support a tax cut on medical devices while the White House and Republicans in Congress continue to cut healthcare for millions of Americans, including stripping protections for individuals with preexisting conditions.

The fiscal shortsightedness of this legislation is deeply troubling. Like most corporations, medical device companies received billions in tax cuts that were completely unpaid. These same medical device companies with devastating fiscal implications. Unfortunately, it has become clear that Republicans plan to cover the costs of these deficit-expanding tax measures by forcing drastic cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

I am fully committed to democratic values. Among the challenges in our relationship with Turkey are the Turkish government’s constraints on freedom and democracy. I believe that removing these constraints will substantially benefit both the United States and Turkey.
HONORING THE CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA ON ITS 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the City of South El Monte, California, which I have the privilege of representing in California’s 38th Congressional District. On July 30th, 2018, South El Monte will celebrate its 80th Anniversary. Located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley, South El Monte is a colorful, diverse, and thriving community. Known to many as the “City of Achievement”, South El Monte has come a long way since it was incorporated as a city with 3,000 residents in 1938. The city is now home to over 20,000 Californians and a robust business community. With easy access to major Southern California freeways, South El Monte hosts more than 2,400 businesses and serves as an important manufacturing base for the Los Angeles region, including in the space an aerospace industries. Beyond its prosperous business sector, South El Monte is a tight-knit community. Since its inception, the city’s mission has been to improve the quality of life of its residents. The Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and Legg Lake on the city’s border, as well as the city’s commitment to those who serve in our armed forces through its Active Military Banner Program, unite a diverse population with a rich history.

I am honored to represent this city and its residents, and look forward to what the next 60 years have in store.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DEMOCRACY RESTORATION ACT OF 2018

HON. JERRY E. NADLER
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2018

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Democracy Restoration Act of 2018. This legislation will serve to clarify and, in some cases, expand the voting rights of people with felony convictions, the next logical step in restoring their full participation in civic life. The United States remains one of the world’s strictest nations when it comes to denying the right to vote to citizens convicted of crimes. An estimated 6.1 million citizens are ineligible to vote in federal elections due to their status as ex-offenders. More than four and a half million of these disqualified voters are not in prison, but are on probation, parole, or have completed their sentence. Due to differences in state laws and rates of criminal punishment, the experience of ex-offenders varies. In the practice of disenfranchisement, demonstrating a critical federal interest for uniform standards. Clarification of the law on restoration of ex-offender voting rights is a critical next step in criminal justice reform. In 2007, President George W. Bush signed the Second Chance Act into law, signaling a bipartisan awareness of the importance of enacting policies that assist in the reintegration of ex-offenders into their communities. Recent public opinion research has also shown that a significant majority of Americans favor voting rights for people on probation or parole, who are currently supervised in their communities, as well as for individuals who have completed their sentences. This legislation both captures the bipartisan spirit of the Bush administration and is consistent with evolving public opinion on rehabilitation of ex-offenders.

From a constitutional basis, the Democracy Restoration Act is a narrowly crafted effort to expand voting rights for people with felony convictions, while protecting state prerogatives to generally establish voting qualifications. The legislation extends voting rights to those who are not in prison, and would only apply to federal elections. As such, our bill is fully consistent with constitutional requirements established by the Supreme Court in a series of decisions upholding federal voting rights laws. Since this legislation was first introduced in 2008, the Sentencing Project reports 27 states have amended felony disenfranchisement policies in an effort to reduce their restrictiveness and expand ex-offender voting. These reforms have resulted in an estimated more than 800,000 citizens regaining their voting rights. Yet, despite these reforms, the overall rate of ex-offender disenfranchisement has not abated and continues to have a disproportionate impact on communities of color. Many of the voting restrictions still rely on lifelong sentencing periods or clemency and several feature burdensome procedural hurdles that have proven difficult to navigate for persons seeking to restore their voting rights. As a result, approximately 50 percent of the entire disenfranchised population is clustered in 12 states, with Florida alone accounting for 48 percent of the post-sentence population. Proponents of ex-offender disenfranchisement have offered few justifications for continuing the practice. In fact, the strongest empirical research suggests that ex-offenders on the right to vote undermine both our voting system and the fundamental rights of people with felony convictions. A series of studies make clear that civic engagement is pivotal in the transition from incarceration and discouragement to repeat offenses. Disenfranchisement laws only serve to isolate and alienate ex-offenders, creating additional obstacles in their attempt to successfully put the past behind them by fully reintegrating into society. But that is only half the story. The current patchwork of state laws has created widespread confusion among election officials throughout the country and has served as the justification for flawed voter purges. For example, although people with misdemeanor convictions never lose the right to vote in Ohio, in 2008, 30 percent of election officials in the state responded incorrectly or expressed uncertainty about whether individuals with misdemeanor convictions could vote. A similar survey by the Nebraska ACLU in advance of the 2016 general election determined that about half of state officials gave out the wrong information about former felons’ voting rights. Given the general confusion by election officials on restoration of voting rights, many ex-offenders are hesitant to even attempt registration, depriving eligible voters of their rights. Only federal law can conclusively resolve the ambiguities in this area plaguing our voting system. For many years, voting restoration legislation has been supported by a broad coalition of groups interested in voting and civil rights, including the NAACP, ACLU, Human Rights Watch, the Brennan Center for Justice, and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, among many others. This coalition has expanded to include many law enforcement groups including the American Probation and Parole Association, the Association of Paroling Authorities International, and the National Black Police Association, among others, who recognize that allowing people to vote after release from prison helps rebuild ties to the community that motivate law-abiding behavior. The denial of voting rights by many states to ex-offenders represents a vestige from a time when suffrage was denied to whole classes of our population based on race, gender, religion, national origin and property. I believe that our