

I would also like to thank Chairman GORDON, Subcommittee Chairman BAIRD, and the staff at the Science and Technology Committee for their assistance in drafting this amendment, and for their commitment to increasing participation of minorities in the science and technology fields.

Hispanic-serving Institutions serve the majority of the nearly two million Hispanic students enrolled in college today, and many of these institutions offer associate, undergraduate, and graduate programs and degrees in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program created by this amendment will allow these colleges and universities to access the funding they need to enhance their educational programs.

In my district alone, about 10,000 students attend Hispanic-Serving Institutions offering degrees in these science fields. Students at institutions throughout Queens and the Bronx, including Lehman College, Bronx Community College, Hostos Community College, LaGuardia Community College, Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology, and the College of Mount Saint Vincent, like those all across the country, will benefit from increased access to funding to improve these degree programs.

This amendment corrects a long-standing inequality at the National Science Foundation. Unlike their counterparts of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving Institutions have not benefited from a specific program to provide them with grants for research, curriculum, and infrastructure development.

Without access to targeted capacity-building grants, Hispanic-Serving Institutions have difficulty increasing the ranks of Hispanics in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, where they have been historically underrepresented. Studies show that Hispanics earn less than 3 percent of doctorates in these areas, compared to more than 50 percent by non-Hispanic whites.

This amendment also goes to the heart of the Innovation Agenda spearheaded by Speaker PELOSI and the new Democratic Coalition in the House to increase our nation's competitiveness and create more math and science graduates.

To maintain our global competitiveness, we need to increase our pool of scientists, mathematicians, and engineers. We can do this by ensuring that Hispanics, the youngest and fastest-growing ethnic population group in the nation, are prepared with the knowledge and skills that will contribute to our nation's future economic strength, security and global leadership.

This grants program will educate and train a new generation of experts in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics areas. By engaging Hispanic-Serving Institutions in this process, we can reach out to and involve more of the Hispanic educational community.

The National Science Foundation, through its undergraduate and graduate programs, can assist Hispanic-Serving Institutions in developing programs to prepare current and future generations of Hispanics and other minority professionals in the sciences.

In the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002, Congress authorized the Foundation to establish a Minority Serving In-

stitutions Undergraduate Program, which was envisioned as being parallel to the existing Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program and the Tribal Colleges Program, and would include Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Native Hawaiian institutions, Native Alaskan institutions, and all other institutions serving "a substantial number of minority students". Unfortunately, the National Science Foundation did not implement the provision.

This amendment explicitly establishes a Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program. The language would capture the components of the successful HBCU-Undergraduate Program, allowing Hispanic-Serving Institutions to achieve this same level of success. The result of the amendment is that now the National Science Foundation will be able to offer three similar programs for three different types of minority-serving institutions, allowing Hispanic Serving Institutions to respond to a proposal solicitation tailored for them alone.

I applaud the establishment of a Hispanic-Serving Institutions Undergraduate Program to achieve the goal of increased minority participation in the sciences, and I urge passage of this excellent amendment by Representatives MCNERNEY and GIFFORDS.

GENETIC INFORMATION  
NONDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2007*

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 493, the "Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2007."

This bill will protect people from discrimination in securing health insurance or employment based on their genetic make-up. Such discrimination is wrong and should not be tolerated. I am proud to support a bill that would outlaw it. I applaud Representative SLAUGHTER and Representative BIGGERT for their hard work in bringing this bill to the floor today.

During consideration of H.R. 493 by the Committee on Energy and Commerce, of which I am a member, a concern was raised by Representative STUPAK. The concern related to genetic discrimination dealing with embryos or fetuses, as well as adopted children and those in the process of being adopted. Like Representative STUPAK, I do not want to allow insurance companies to use genetic information to discriminate. Period.

I worked out language with Representative STUPAK to amend H.R. 493, which addressed his concerns in a mutually acceptable way. This language says that individuals cannot be discriminated against as a result of genetic information gleaned prior to birth. It further says that women cannot be discriminated against as a result of the genetic information of a fetus, embryo, adopted child, or child they are in the process of adopting. At the same time, it does not create a new legal status or convey new legal rights to fetuses or embryos. Thus, I feel it provides the proper balance between providing protections from genetic discrimination while not addressing other non-germane issues.

The compromise language was adopted by the full Committee on Energy and Commerce without objection during its consideration of H.R. 493. I am pleased that this language is included in the bill we are considering on the floor today.

I encourage all Members to support H.R. 493 and I look forward to its soon becoming law.

WILD FREE-ROAMING HORSES AND  
BURROS SALE AND SLAUGHTER  
PROHIBITION

SPEECH OF

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 26, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 249) to restore the prohibition on the sale and slaughter of wild and free-roaming horses and burros:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 249.

This legislation is critical to preserving a part of America's roots, and it is an important symbol of the rugged, wild, and freedom that is the American West. As old as the red rock on the canyon walls, and as reliable as the sun rising in the clear western sky, America's wild and free-roaming horses and burros on our public lands are part of our nation's fabric and history.

H.R. 249, a bill to protect wild free-roaming horses and burros, will expressly prohibit the sale, transfer, or slaughter for commercial product processing of any freeroaming horse or burro on U.S. public lands.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 249.

BING SUM WONG

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 3, 2007*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a loving husband and father, successful businessman, and dedicated community activist, Mr. Bing Sum Wong.

Bing passed away on April 24, 2007, in San Bernardino, California. He was 95 years old.

Bing spent his early childhood years in Kwangtung, China, and at the age of 13, moved with his father to San Bernardino.

From this humble beginning, Bing went on to become one of the most successful businessmen in San Bernardino, as well as a great friend to the community.

Bing opened his first restaurant in 1933, in Calexico. In 1956, after more than 20 years in the restaurant business, Bing and his wife Ting opened Bing's famous Cathay Inn, located on Highland Avenue. The restaurant was a huge success, and gave Bing the opportunity to focus on one of his true passions, education.

In 1963, the Bing Wong scholarship foundation was formed. Since then, more than \$600,000 has been distributed to students pursuing education. Today, the scholarships are