

My fellow members of Congress, I urge you to support H.R. 6198 which will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1700 Cleveland Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri, as the "Reverend Earl Abel Post Office Building.

**RYAN HAIGHT ONLINE PHARMACY
CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF
2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House considered and passed H.R. 6353, the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act. This legislation will ensure that purchasers of potentially dangerous prescription drugs are evaluated face-to-face by a physician, removing the potentially dangerous anonymity inherent in the current federal regulations which allow prescriptions to be written based on a telephone call or online questionnaire.

To be sure, online pharmaceuticals makes it possible for millions of Americans to conveniently and affordably access the prescription medications on which they rely. However, the online system of prescribing and dispensing medication has been accompanied by a disturbing increase in the level of harm and death due to prescription drugs. This increase is, in large part, a result of the current federal guidelines that allow online pharmacies to write prescriptions for patients based on a telephone conversation with a physician or a simple online questionnaire, empowering patients to diagnose and prescribe for themselves virtually any drug and dosage they desire. Without the necessary information for adequate oversight by a qualified physician, many people have been exposed to dangerous and, all too often, deadly medications.

In response, many states have enacted laws requiring that individuals seeking access to powerful medications such as Vicoden and Xanax be evaluated in person before being prescribed a controlled substance. For example, in my state of Minnesota, the legislature and governor have recently worked together to establish Justin's Law. Named for a vibrant young man whose bright future was cut short by an overdose of prescription painkillers obtained through an internet pharmacy without a physician visit, Justin's Law has already been implemented to hold illicit online pharmacies accountable.

That said, the lives affected by online pharmacies are not limited to a particular state, and moreover, the interstate nature of the commerce conducted via the internet warrants that legislation be enacted at the federal level to help protect online consumers. As a result, I applaud my colleague, Congressman STUPAK for introducing H.R. 6353. This legislation, of which I am a cosponsor, will help stem the dangerous tide of controlled substances being dispensed without adequate supervision.

**CREDIT CARD HOLDERS' BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5244, the Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights Act.

It is all too common for hard-working Americans to be in debt because of credit cards. Many of my constituents struggle from paycheck to paycheck to make ends meet. Because of this they use credit cards as a means of acquiring the necessities of life, such as buying food for their family or paying utility or medical bills.

For most Americans, the language credit card companies use is difficult to understand, so most do not know what they are getting themselves into when they sign up to receive a credit card.

That is why I am pleased that my colleagues are considering H.R. 5244—the Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights Act—of which I am a proud cosponsor.

This legislation gives rights back to the consumer, such as protecting them from arbitrary interest rate increases, early pre-payment penalties, and excessive fees.

This bill will help those Americans by requiring credit card companies to mail bills twenty-five days in advance before the bill is due and to notify the cardholders forty-five days in advance of any interest rate increase.

Today is a victory for the consumers as we have finally leveled the playing field between cardholders and the credit card companies.

**FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT
OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 22, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6897, Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008. Congress must recognize the veteran status of the 250,000 Filipinos who served in the United States Armed Forces in World War II.

In 1941, President Roosevelt drafted 140,000 Filipinos into the Service. They were promised US citizenship in exchange for fighting for our country. Unfortunately, in 1946 they were denied citizenship and Veteran's benefits. It was a post-war cost-cutting measure that President Truman said he later regretted signing into Law.

We have a chance to right a wrong that has been allowed to continue for over 60 years. We must act quickly to honor these brave men before it is too late. I urge my colleagues to join me and vote in support of H.R. 6897, Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2008.

**COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN EN-
ERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6899, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act.

Every day my constituents contact my office wanting to know what Congress is doing to lower gas prices. Many of these families work full-time. Some even have more than one job. Yet as a result of skyrocketing energy costs and a weakening economy, they are struggling to make ends meet.

Madam Speaker, there is something fundamentally wrong with our energy policy when hardworking American families are increasingly burdened by escalating energy prices, while oil companies continue to reap record profits. Congress has a duty to move past short-sighted solutions, and pass this legislation which will provide the first steps to ending this inequity and our Nation's addiction to oil.

While I have serious concerns about the expansion of offshore drilling, I recognize however, that this compromise is needed to address the expiration of the moratorium on Outer Continental Shelf drilling and move the other important provisions in the legislation forward.

While it is far from perfect, H.R. 6899 is a necessary and realistic compromise that in addition to preventing drilling only three miles off our shores, will help expand our domestic energy supply, encourage energy efficiency and conservation, and reduce our Nation's dependence on oil.

H.R. 6899 will address our energy crisis by the temporary release of almost 10 percent of the oil in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This is expected to have the direct result of lower gas prices in the short-term.

The bill also invests in renewable energy technology by establishing a package of renewable energy tax credits and creating a renewable electricity standard, thereby giving us the tools and the incentives to break free of our dependence on oil. It is estimated that the renewable electricity standard will save American consumers up to \$18 billion by 2020. In addition, the tax credits will help spur the creation of new, green jobs and encourage the next generation of job development here in America.

The bill also ensures that oil companies will pay their fair share of royalties on their drilling leases. Due to errors made by the Department of the Interior in 1998 and 1999, many oil companies who were granted leases during that time were exempt from paying royalties. This has amounted to \$15 billion in lost revenues to the American taxpayer. There is absolutely no reason that oil companies should continue to cash in while American families can't even make ends meet. By rectifying this error, H.R. 6899 will ensure that the Interior Department will be able to collect the payments owed to hardworking Americans.

Given the current crisis, it is necessary we take the first step to reach our larger goal of energy independence. The Democratic leadership has wisely rejected the Republican Party's shortsighted call for "drill-only" legislation,