

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE WEST HAVEN
HEAD START PROGRAM ON ITS
30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 3, 2009

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to the West Haven Head Start Program as they celebrate their 30th anniversary. Over the course of the past three decades, the West Haven Head Start Program has empowered thousands of our youngest children by ensuring that they are prepared with the tools and skills they need as they enter elementary school.

We all know how important early childhood education is to our children. Study after study has shown that in their first 3 years children develop the foundation for their language, social-emotional, and brain development. Everything we have seen points to the fact that quality education and early engagement—from parents and teachers alike—are fundamental to the future success of our children. Head Start was built on that foundation and there is no greater example of its impact on our children and families than the West Haven Head Start Program.

The Head Start Program, here in West Haven and across the country, has become the cornerstone of our efforts to close the achievement gap, combat poverty, and provide every child with the opportunity to thrive. Housed at the West Haven Community House, West Haven's Head Start Program provides services to hundreds of preschool children from disadvantaged families every year. Parents are engaged through regular parenting classes, peer networking, and special family events. Children participate in arts and crafts, individual and group play, and literacy activities designed to promote physical, mental, social, and emotional development. I have had the opportunity to visit this program many times during my time in Congress and I cannot begin to describe the excitement of these children—their desire to learn and ability to absorb all the information around them are extraordinary. The Head Start Program provides them with an opportunity that may otherwise not be available to them. To give these youngsters the gift of knowledge is invaluable and I could not be more proud of the work that is done at the West Haven Head Start Program.

Thirty years—this is a remarkable milestone for this outstanding program and to support their efforts has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my time in Congress. The West Haven Head Start Program has made all the difference in the lives of countless children and their families. As they mark their 30th year, I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate program direc-

tor Linda Michaels, as well as her staff and wish them all the best for continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFESAVING
WORK OF THE OFFICE OF THE
ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 3, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank the doctors and nurses in the Office of the Attending Physician for their work in saving the life of one of my staff members, Matt Lloyd, on the afternoon of October 8, 2008. After getting an allergy shot in the U.S. Capitol building, Matt had an anaphylactic reaction to an allergy shot that caused him to require immediate medical attention. His blood pressure dropped to 60 over 40 and his pulse was 40 beats per minute and dropping. He had very little time left to live.

Thanks to the quick reaction and medical professionalism of Dr. Rob Summerlee, nurses Susan Deans, Lara Crouch, Jean Larson, corpsmen Tom Wolff, David Short and Tre Sutherland, Matt is still with us today. Had each of these professionals, particularly Dr. Summerlee, not reacted in an urgent manner with care and precision, not to mention the correct decision, there is no question Matt would have died.

Too often we take the sacrifice and expertise of those who serve us in the medical field for granted. Yet we are reminded, as in Matt's case, that they must handle an enormous amount of pressure when someone's life is dependent on them making the correct split second decision.

I thank God for placing these good men and women in the nurse's station in the Capitol the day Matt had this reaction and owe them a debt of gratitude for saving his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 3, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 689 and 690, I would have voted Aye, but family responsibilities kept me from the Chamber. I believe enactment of this legislation would have helped the people of Tennessee. Due to a miscommunication on which vote was pending, my staff released inaccurate information to the press that I was in the Chamber and attempted to vote. I regret the confusion and want the RECORD to reflect my support for both measures.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACK AND
DOLLIE HARVEY'S 40TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, January 3, 2009

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of Jack and Dollie Harvey. Their commitment to each other as well as to their community is something we can all be proud of.

Over those 40 years, they have worked together to help others. Their romance was born out of tragedy with each of them being widowed at a young age. Instead of dwelling on the hardships they faced in losing a loved one and, eventually, the challenges of merging their two families, they became more mindful of the needs of those around them. They helped rebuild after the 1976 Teton Dam collapse; "adopted" the homeless; taught at a juvenile detention center; ministered in migrant camps throughout the Southwest; volunteered at a community recreation center; counseled the terminally ill and their families; organized and managed summer camps for children from low-income families; entertained at nursing homes, state hospitals and city missions; and gave their time, money and energy to every opportunity for service that came their way.

Like many other Americans their age, the Harveys have to stretch their Social Security check to cover their monthly expenses. But they don't worry so much about paying the bills. Quite often, their biggest concern is just finding the energy to breathe. Jack, 78, who suffers from a chronic respiratory disease, and Dollie, 71, a cancer survivor tethered to oxygen, squeeze their numerous doctors' appointments and her frequent transfusions and injections into a hectic schedule devoted to ministering to others.

Sundays are busy days for the couple, teaching Sunday school, practicing for Christmas programs and guest preaching, their efforts continue to make a difference and inspire all of those who meet them. Their lessons have not been lost on their eight children, 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, who include ministers, educators, law enforcement personnel, healthcare professionals, a social worker, military members and Arkansas and U.S. government officials.

Jack and Dollie long ago adopted the motto not to pass on peacefully but to charge ahead helping others until they drop—exhausted and totally spent—into the grave. Truly, it is this kind of commitment, this type of dedication, that makes America great.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

AUTO INDUSTRY FINANCING AND
RESTRUCTURING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7321, the Auto Industry Financing and Restructuring Act.

I voted twice against the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, more familiarly known as the Wall Street bailout, because I felt that it was an irresponsible use of \$700 billion of taxpayer dollars. There was no concrete plan for how those funds would be used or what specifically they would accomplish. I opposed the Wall Street bailout because it was in essence a blank check.

So I thought long and hard about the proposed use of \$15 billion in hard-earned taxpayer dollars to provide assistance to auto manufacturers. I have concluded that these are substantially different circumstances, and that the Auto Industry Financing and Restructuring Act represents a practical and fiscally responsible approach to saving millions of jobs and a key pillar of our fragile economy.

I want to emphasize that the approach taken in this measure is in sharp contrast to the Wall Street bailout. I continue to believe that it was a mistake to blindly hand Wall

Street everything it wanted, and to rush to such a decision in just seven days. The Government Accountability Office released a report on December 2, 2008, that shows that the proper and effective distribution of those funds remains impaired by a lack of adequate transparency and accountability.

Congress has taken a more measured approach to addressing our struggling automotive industry. Congressional leaders correctly turned down the auto manufacturers' initial request for tens of billions of dollars with no strings attached. We sent the auto manufacturers back to the drawing board to develop specific plans to restructure their operations and to provide a credible account for how they would use federal funds to build a viable industry, with quality jobs, while protecting taxpayer investments.

I am encouraged by the auto manufacturers' good faith efforts since that time, and I am pleased that this Act would provide the transparency and accountability that should have been built into the Wall Street bailout. In addition to strong independent oversight by the GAO and a Special Inspector General, the auto assistance funds would be subject to rigorous oversight with the government having full information access and veto powers over large industry expenditures. Auto executives will be held accountable for implementing their restructuring plans and complying with Congress' terms. The funds also would be subject to strict conditions, such as requirements that innovation funding be set aside to build ad-

vanced technology vehicles with improved efficiency and carbon emissions. Additionally, this measure establishes hard deadlines for progress in restructuring, and includes provisions for cutting off aid if these deadlines are not met.

For example, companies receiving assistance would not be allowed to pay dividends to their shareholders until they repay the loan, and the government could require immediate repayment from any company that does not make adequate progress by February 15, 2009. Further, unlike the Wall Street bailout, taxpayer dollars would not simply be given to executives to line their pockets. These companies would be explicitly prohibited from giving their highest-paid employees large bonuses or golden parachutes.

It is true that \$15 billion is a significant investment. However, given that this assistance is only two percent of the amount given to Wall Street, under the circumstances I believe that we have no choice but to view this as a moderate approach to preventing catastrophic job loss. It is my hope that this sober-minded package will function as a bridge to keep the auto manufacturers functioning into the next Administration, and provide additional time to figure out how to save the domestic automotive industry.

Having said that, I intend to carefully follow the implementation of this program, to ensure that taxpayer money is spent properly.