

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF REGULATIONS RELATING TO INTERAGENCY COOPERATION UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, using the authority granted to Congress under the Congressional Review Act, to overturn last minute regulations promulgated by the Bush Interior and Commerce Departments which give federal agencies an unacceptable degree of discretion to decide whether or not to comply with the Endangered Species Act, ESA.

Joining me in introducing this measure are Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. HINCHey, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DICKS, Mr. FARR, and Mr. BLUMENAUER. I thank them for their support.

The Bush Administration has had a long, though one could hardly say proud, history of trying to undermine the Endangered Species Act and the protection it provides our Nation's most imperiled species. For years, high ranking political appointees in the Department of Interior used their positions and influence to meddle in scientific decisions under the ESA and alter outcomes, potentially harming species and most definitely harming the integrity of the law and morale and reputation of the agency charged with implementing it.

The rules we seek to overturn with this joint resolution were rushed through in the final months of the Administration and are the final assault on and insult to one of our nation's landmark conservation laws. They gut what is the cornerstone of the law, the Section 7 consultation process, and allow federal agencies to undertake or permit thousands of federal activities, such as logging or building a dam, on federal land and other areas without obtaining review or comment from federal wildlife biologists at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

This incredibly controversial proposal—which could have far-reaching implications on the future integrity of the Endangered Species program—clearly merits more public scrutiny than the Administration provided. First proposed in late August, the Administration rushed a public comment period and environmental assessment and then reviewed more than 300,000 public comments at a rate of more than 6,000 per hour. This last minute, ill-conceived overhaul of the rules governing America's endangered wildlife, brokered behind closed doors, is an affront to the American people who trust their government to do the right thing.

Eleventh hour rulemakings rarely, if ever, lead to good government, and this is not the type of legacy the Bush Administration should be leaving for future generations. Not surpris-

ingly, this is not the first time—though fortunately it will likely be the last—that the Bush Interior Department abdicated their responsibility for ensuring that an agency action will not jeopardize a listed species or harm their habitat. Similar regulations proposed to allow the Environmental Protection Agency to decide whether to consult when licensing pesticides were rejected by the Court in 2006, just as we should reject these regulatory changes now.

As the Bush Administration fades off into the sunset, they leave behind a trail of last minute regulatory changes that represent the worst in public policy and that Congress and the new President will have to undo. In my role as chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, I look forward to working with the Obama Administration to correct course and promote a positive resource conservation agenda. We need to invoke the change that is needed to restore the vigor and vitality of America, including the unique natural heritage that has carved our Nation as we know it today. Passage of this joint resolution will be one important step in restoring that natural heritage.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 which will provide health care coverage for an additional 4.1 million children. Every child in America should have the right to health care, and this bill will bring us one step closer to that goal.

It is unacceptable that more than 47 million Americans, including 11 percent of American children, are without health insurance. Many hard-working families in Minnesota and across the nation have lost their jobs, 2.6 million jobs in the last year. For every 1 percent increase in the unemployment rate, it is estimated that as many as 1.5 million Americans will lose their health care coverage. Expanding SCHIP will expand health care access for children at a time when too many American families are losing employer-sponsored health care. In these tough economic times, by helping families gain access to health care, we can give families the resources they need to give their children a better future.

The bill provides access to health care for 4 million children in America who are currently uninsured and preserves the coverage for all 7.1 million children currently covered by SCHIP. It is supported by 80 percent of the American people and over 300 organizations—including large majorities of Democrats,

Independents and Republicans. The bill will extend coverage to 4.1 million additional low-income, uninsured children, covering a total of 11 million, and is likely to be one of the first signed into law by President Barack Obama. Last year, President Bush vetoed this vital health legislation that was passed by both chambers of Congress.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was created in 1997 to provide health care coverage for children in families that earn too little to afford health insurance for their children themselves but too much to qualify for Medicaid. This bill will give states the resources and incentives necessary to reach and cover millions of uninsured children who are currently eligible, but not enrolled. It will also improve SCHIP benefits—ensuring dental coverage and mental health parity. This bill is largely paid for by increasing the tobacco tax by 61 cents, and will help keep kids and families healthy while saving taxpayers money in the long-run.

Expanding SCHIP is an important step forward, but we still must keep fight to make healthcare available and affordable for all Americans. As we reform our health care system, we need to focus on accessible, patient-centered care that focuses on wellness and prevention, while improving the quality of patient care. We will continue to fight to expand SCHIP and make health care available and affordable for Minnesota children and their parents.

As we start the new Congress and the new administration I can think of no better way to bring about change than by investing in our children's health care. It is morally right, and crucial for the future of our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important bill.

HONORING TONY DUNGY, INDIANAPOLIS COLTS HEAD COACH

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Tony Dungy, head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, who after more than 30 years in football has announced his retirement.

Mr. Dungy's stellar career in professional football began on the field, where he won a Super Bowl Championship as a member of the 1978 Pittsburgh Steelers. Years later, this experience led to his hiring as the youngest assistant coach in the NFL at the age of 25.

His respectful coaching style and emphasis on both personal and athletic growth has made Mr. Dungy one of the most successful and well regarded coaches in the NFL. His unique coaching style led the Colts to seven consecutive playoff appearances, including a victory in Super Bowl XLI. In 2012, Indianapolis will host its first Super Bowl, in part because of the prestige that Mr. Dungy has brought to the Colts organization.

• 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.

Off the field, Mr. Dungy has been a nationally recognized community activist. Because of his unwavering support of teen mentoring, prison ministry, and other faith based community outreach programs, President Bush appointed him to the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tony Dungy on an incredible career and thanking him for his dedication to the highest level of sport and community service.

IN MEMORY OF M. PAUL REDD

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise, with great admiration for a leader of unparalleled strength of conviction and with personal sadness at the loss of a good friend, to pay tribute to the life, achievements, and memory of M. Paul Redd.

Paul Redd's record of civic accomplishment is well-known: his tireless stewardship of the Westchester County Press, his founding of the Westchester Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., his leadership of Westchester/Putnam Affirmative Action, his deep engagement in the work of government and the challenge of politics. These roles and duties have been rightly noted and extolled in the days since Paul's passing, yet they alone do not capture the essence of the man.

It was Paul Redd's fearless character, a trait that infused and informed all of his deeds, that shines most brightly in memory.

Paul Redd moved easily in the corridors of power and counted among his friends men and women of great influence, but Paul was never an insider, because he understood at every moment that he spoke for those on the outside—those who were denied opportunities to achieve their potential, exercise their rights, and enjoy the full fruits of a free and decent society. And if Paul's voice was sometimes loud, it is because so often he gave voice to those without one of their own.

Paul Redd was not interested in making anyone comfortable, nor in employing the empty pleasantries that too often conceal injustice. He understood that wrongs are best addressed directly and forcefully, in the full light of day. And he was willing to confront anyone, big or small, friend or foe, when the duties of conscience demanded it.

It is no wonder, therefore, that his column "M. Paul Tells All" was so unique in its incisive commentary and in the attention it commanded among public officials and citizens alike. It is no wonder that Paul Redd was at the forefront of protests and demonstrations to achieve equal opportunity in housing and employment. It is no wonder that Paul Redd left a lasting mark in law and administration, an edifice of public policy that will outlive us all.

Paul Redd's vocal public leadership was matched by a quiet, dutiful, and often thankless private acceptance of heavy responsibility. Nowhere is this more evident than in the survival and success of the Westchester County Press, sustained almost as an act of will by Paul Redd. He worked often late into the night and then on into the morning to ensure that it never missed an issue, enlisting

friends and colleagues in his labors, and ensuring that the paper of record of Westchester's African-American community would not be silenced.

It goes without saying that Paul was utterly devoted to and fully supported by his loving family, beginning with his partner and dear wife of so many years, Oriah Redd, and continuing with two children who are accomplished in and devoted to service, Paula Redd Zeman and M. Paul Redd, Jr.

Paul Redd surely drew great satisfaction and hope from the progress he witnessed—and often led—over the span of decades. He was proud of the many African-Americans who achieved public office in our county, encouraged by the breaking of barriers that opened the doors of public and private sector leadership to all Americans, and elated by the election of our nation's first African-American President. But Paul Redd never confused movement towards a goal with final attainment of a goal. His eyes were always forward, fixed on the unmet challenge and determined to meet it. Paul knew what our community and nation could and should be and, in life, was unwilling to rest so long as this vision remained distant.

Like Dr. King, whom he revered, Paul Redd was destined to see the promised land, more clearly than most, but not to set foot within it. It must be the mission now of those who knew and loved him to finish the work for which Paul Redd gave every measure of his devotion.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. In 2007, more than 8 million children were uninsured, and with the growing recession, this number will only grow. Passing this bill will ensure that 4 million of those children will receive CHIP, bringing the total number of children covered by CHIP to 11 million.

Expanding health care coverage for our most vulnerable populations, including legal immigrant children and some pregnant women, is an obligation we cannot afford to ignore. Nearly 400,000 legal immigrant children come from families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level and are ineligible for CHIP solely because they are recent immigrants. These families, uninsured and unable to purchase private health insurance on their own, are left to fend for themselves when they desperately need health care for their children. This is unacceptable, and with this legislation, we will reverse this shameful practice by providing States with the option of covering these deserving low-income families.

The passage of this bill is a great start, but we must do better. While this bill extends coverage to an additional 4 million children, including legal immigrants, over 4 million children will still suffer without health care cov-

erage. In addition, nearly 90 million people went without health coverage for all or part of 2006 and 2007, most of them in working families. These numbers are disgraceful. This Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that our children and their families have access to high quality, affordable healthcare as a basic human right, not as a luxury.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act. This is a landmark measure which will extend the life-changing benefit of health insurance to an additional 4 million American children. That means millions of parents won't have to bring their child to the emergency room because they're running a fever and have nowhere else to go. Millions of parents who can take their child to a dentist if their teeth hurt. Millions of parents who can take care of their children in a way most families take for granted—that when they're sick, they can go to the doctor.

SCHIP has been an incredible success story, extending the benefits of health care to 7 million children, and more than 750,000 in California alone. These are children whose families have incomes that are too high to qualify for Medicaid but who do not receive health insurance through their employment and can't afford it on their own. SCHIP is based on a simple premise—that insuring kids' health care is the right thing to do. It's much cheaper to insure children, and this investment will yield healthier generations of adults, improved quality of life, and long-term health care savings. The experience of the 11 years since SCHIP was originally created proves the wisdom and prudence of providing care for prevention and wellness in our children.

In addition to reauthorizing the program, this bill improves SCHIP by creating new incentives to seek out millions of children around the nation who are eligible but not enrolled. Two-thirds of uninsured children are currently eligible for coverage through SCHIP or Medicaid—this bill provides greater funding in grants for new outreach activities to States, local governments, schools, community-based organizations, and others. With this bill, more kids who are eligible will get enrolled and stay enrolled for a benefit that they are entitled.

The legislation is fully paid for by an increase in the tax on cigarettes—a provision that I hope will also help discourage youth smoking.

During these trying economic times, and with rising unemployment, the need for this SCHIP bill has become more critical now than ever before. This recession has forced more and more American parents to face difficult choices—finding affordable health insurance for their children shouldn't be one of them.

A vote for this bill is a vote for an America that takes care of its children. In the richest nation in the history of the world, it is simply