

field. Ms. Brockman's position was reclassified to Senior Secretary in 1987, and by taking specialized classes relating to the conduct and history of elections over a two year period, she earned a National Certification as a Certified Elections Registration Administrator. In 1998, she was promoted to Election Process Supervisor and became interim Election Division Chief in 2000, accepting the position as a permanent appointment six months later. Ms. Brockman continued her education by attending classes designed specifically for California election law and became a Certified California Professional Elections Administrator in 2005. She has worked and supervised nearly every section in elections and capped her career off as Chief Deputy Registrar of Voters.

Under her leadership, the Election Division, which conducts all federal, state and local elections in Kern County and maintains voter registration and precinct boundaries, implemented both voter registration and voting systems. She was the right person at the right time for the job; during the past seven years, the Elections Division has experienced more material changes in election law than in the previous 18 years of Ms. Brockman's career.

Ms. Brockman has worked long hours to ensure that the election process has integrity and transparency. Her accessibility and commitment to helping anyone needing information, assistance or direction personifies how dedicated she was as a public servant. Ms. Brockman's institutional knowledge, personality and dedication to the citizens of Kern County will be sorely missed. I thank Sandy for her service to Kern County and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

NATIONAL MS AWARENESS WEEK

HON. MARY JO KILROY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mrs. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today during National MS Awareness Week to bring attention to a disease that affects an estimated 400,000 people living in the United States. Multiple sclerosis is a chronic disease of the central nervous system that is unpredictable, the symptoms of which vary from person to person. Because MS affects individuals so differently, it is difficult to make generalizations about disability; however, MS is often characterized by tingling, numbness, painful sensations, muscle tightness or paralysis. Statistics suggest that two out of three people with MS remain able to walk over their lifetime, though many require a cane or other assistive device. MS is not always easy to diagnose because symptoms come and go but it is estimated every week, 200 people in the United States are diagnosed with MS.

I was diagnosed with MS in 2003; I have an intimate understanding about how important it is to find a cure for the disease. Research has developed "disease-modifying" drugs that help lessen the frequency and severity of MS attacks, reduce the accumulation of lesions in the brain and may slow the progression of disability, but we can do more.

Health insurance reform is a necessity in this country. Because insurance companies "tier" medications as a way to cut costs, peo-

ple diagnosed with MS often find their necessary medications financially out of reach. Decisions about which medications patients should take must be made by doctors, not corporations.

The National MS Society has been a tireless advocate for health care reform and research on behalf of persons living with MS. I would like to take a moment to recognize all the work the National MS Society has put into combating this disease. Through extensive research, providing comprehensive services to people with MS and through their advocacy, they have made great strides in raising MS awareness. I congratulate them on their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I know first-hand how important it is to fund medical research to find cures for chronic diseases. As individuals and as a government, we need to come together and provide the resources necessary to create a world free of MS. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in fighting for a cure for MS and other diseases, so that all Americans can live fully active, healthy lives.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, consistent with House Republican Earmark Standards, I am submitting the following earmark disclosure and certification information for requests I made which are included in the text and/or report to accompany H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. I certify that neither I, nor my spouse, have any financial interest in these requests, and certify that, to the best of my knowledge, these requests: (1) are not directed to an entity or program named or that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; (2) are not intended for a "front" or "pass-through" entity; and (3) meet or exceed statutory requirements for matching funds (where applicable).

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: COPS, Department of Justice

Name of requesting entity: Kaysville City, Utah

Address of requesting entity: 23 East Center, Kaysville, Utah 84037

Description of request: \$300,000 for law enforcement communications and operations technology

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: OJP—Byrne Discretionary Grants

Name of requesting entity: Clearfield City

Address of requesting entity: 55 South State Street, Clearfield, Utah 84015

Description of request: \$200,000 for technology to combat gang activity

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Bureau of Reclamation, Water and Related Resources

Name of requesting entity: Park City

Address of requesting entity: PO Box 1480, Park City, Utah 84060

Description of request: \$200,000 for water feasibility study

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy—Solar Energy

Name of requesting entity: Salt Lake County, Utah Address of requesting entity: 2001 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84190

Description of request: \$618,475 for the Energy Efficient Buildings Project

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Small Business Administration

Name of requesting entity: World Trade Center Utah

Address of requesting entity: 175 East 400 South, suite 609, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Description of request: \$385,000 for the World Trade Center Utah to connect the Utah and Intermountain business community to the people, companies, data, and government agencies which make up the fabric of global commerce, through training classes and cross cultural seminars, identification of new market opportunities, creating access to trade missions, and facilitating export financing, controls, and distribution.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Name of requesting entity: Clearfield City, UT

Address of requesting entity: 55 South State Street, Clearfield, Utah 84015

Description of request: \$380,000 for the purchase of blighted lands for use in the development of a private/public project known as West Phase I, a downtown redevelopment project within the city.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: National Park Service Statutory or Contractual Aid

Name of requesting entity: Ogden City, Utah

Address of requesting entity: 2549 Washington Blvd, Ogden, Utah 84401

Description of request: \$300,000 to implement the Crossroads of the West Historic District.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Environmental Protection Agency STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Name of requesting entity: Washington Terrace, UT

Address of requesting entity: 5249 South Pointe Drive, Washington Terrace, Utah 84405

Description of request: \$1,240,000 for water and sewer infrastructure replacement project

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Education

Name of requesting entity: Open Content Foundation at Utah State University

Address of requesting entity: 1750 North Research parkway, North Logan, UT 84341

Description of request: \$190,000 for curriculum development and textbook materials for Utah's ninth grade core curriculum.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Fund for the Improvement of Education

Name of requesting entity: Weber State University

Address of requesting entity: 3850 University Circle, Ogden, Utah 84408

Description of request: \$143,000 for a teacher training initiative to prepare teaching assistants to become teachers.

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Health Resources and Services Administration

Name of requesting entity: Intermountain Healthcare

Address of requesting entity: 36 South State Street Floor 22, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Description of request: \$476,000 for the Patient Safety Initiative, including purchase and implementation of electronic medical records and equipment

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: FTA Bus and Bus Facilities account

Name of requesting entity: Cache Valley Transit District

Address of requesting entity: 754 West 600 North, Logan, Utah 84321

Description of request: \$475,000 to construct a new multi-use facility for the transit district

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: FTA Bus and Bus Facilities account

Name of requesting entity: Cache Valley Transit District

Address of requesting entity: 754 West 600 North, Logan, Utah 84321

Description of request: \$475,000 for Cache Valley Transit District Hybrid Bus Fleet Expansion

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: FTA New Starts/Fixed Guideway account

Name of requesting entity: Utah Transit Authority

Address of requesting entity: 669 West 200 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84130

Description of request: \$81,600,000 for a 44 mile commuter rail project linking Weber County to Salt Lake City

Requesting Member: Representative ROB BISHOP

Bill number: H.R. 1105

Account: Federal Highway Administration—Federal Lands account

Name of requesting entity: Brigham City, Utah

Address of requesting entity: 20 North Main Street, Brigham City, Utah 84302

Description of request: \$285,000 to complete construction on the Bear River Access Road to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge.

TRIBUTE TO JESSE PURVIS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jesse Purvis, a high school student and Boy Scout, from Woodward, Iowa.

Jesse, who remembers the tornado that stormed through his town in November 2005, distributed emergency kits throughout Woodward this February. The emergency kits contain information provided by the Red Cross, Dallas County Emergency Management, Iowa One Call, and Iowa Homeland Security including directions on what to do in case of an emergency or disaster, and colored ribbons to be used on homes to help first responders during emergencies.

Jesse's concern and sacrifices for his community serve as wonderful examples of the compassionate nature of Iowans. I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in thanking Jesse Purvis for his philanthropy and setting an example as a young leader. I consider it an honor to represent Jesse in Congress, and I wish him the best in his future.

INTRODUCING THE CHILD HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to help working Americans provide for their children's health care needs by introducing the Child Health Care Affordability Act. The Child Health Care Affordability Act provides parents with a tax credit of up to \$500 for health care expenses of dependent children. Parents caring for a child with a disability, terminal disease, cancer, or any other health condition requiring specialized care would receive a tax credit of up to \$3,000 to help cover their child's health care expenses.

The tax credit would be available to all citizens, regardless of whether or not they itemize their deductions. The credit applies against both income and payroll tax liability. The tax credits provided in this bill will be especially helpful to those Americans whose employers cannot afford to provide health insurance for their employees. These workers must struggle to meet the medical bills of themselves and their families. This burden is especially heavy on parents whose children have a medical condition, such as cancer or a physical disability, that requires long-term or specialized health care.

As an OB-GYN who has had the privilege of delivering more than four thousand babies, I know how important it is that parents have the resources to provide adequate health care for their children. The inability of many working Americans to provide health care for their children is rooted in one of the great inequities of the tax code—Congress's failure to allow individuals the same ability to deduct health care costs that it grants to businesses. As a direct result of Congress's refusal to provide individuals with health care related tax credits, par-

ents whose employers do not provide health insurance have to struggle to provide health care for their children. Many of these parents work in low-income jobs; oftentimes, their only recourse for health care is the local emergency room.

Sometimes parents are forced to delay seeking care for their children until minor health concerns that could have been easily treated become serious problems requiring expensive treatment. If these parents had access to the type of tax credits provided in the Child Health Care Affordability Act, they would be better able to provide care for their children, and our nation's already overcrowded emergency rooms would be relieved of the burden of having to provide routine care for people who otherwise cannot afford it.

According to research on the effects of this bill done by my staff and legislative counsel, the benefit of these tax credits would begin to be felt by joint filers with incomes slightly above \$18,000 dollars per year, or single income filers with incomes slightly above \$15,000 dollars per year. Clearly, this bill will be of the most benefit to low-income Americans balancing the demands of taxation with the needs of their children.

Under the Child Health Care Affordability Act, a struggling single mother with an asthmatic child would at last be able to provide for her child's needs, while a working-class family will not have to worry about how they will pay the bills if one of their children requires lengthy hospitalization or some other form of specialized care.

Madam Speaker, this Congress has a moral responsibility to provide tax relief so that low-income parents struggling to care for a sick child can better meet their child's medical expenses. Some may say that we cannot enact the Child Health Care Affordability Act because it would cause the government to lose revenue. But, who is more deserving of this money, Congress or the working parents of a sick child?

The Child Health Care Affordability Act takes a major step toward helping working Americans meet their health care needs by providing them with generous health care related tax cuts and tax credits. I urge my colleagues to support the pro-family, pro-health care tax cuts contained in the Child Health Care Affordability Act.

CONGRATULATING THE SANTA ROSA WARRIORS

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the mighty Santa Rosa Warriors (30-6), who last Saturday represented the City of Santa Rosa and the entire Rio Grande Valley of South Texas in winning the Class 2A 2009 Region IV-2A championship game against Randolph, Texas. The Warriors won in dramatic fashion in overtime and will now take on Ponder, Texas in the state semifinals.

The Rio Grande Valley is a Texas region with a long tradition of great high school sports successes, with state titles in football