

and addressing California water issues so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,

TOVEY GIEZENTANNER,  
President and CEO,  
Conaway Preservation Group, LLC.

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2035,  
Woodland, CA, October 6, 2009.

Re Support for water transfer legislation.

Hon. JIM COSTA,

House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN COSTA: On behalf of Reclamation District 2035, thank you for introducing legislation authorizing and establishing a permanent long-term program to promote and manage water transfers in the Central Valley of California. Reclamation District 2035 (RD 2035) was formed in 1919 to provide flood control and water delivery for approximately 22,000 acres in Yolo County, California. While RD2035 does not own water rights, it is responsible for the delivery of CVP water to its agricultural customers whose crops represent the top three agricultural commodities in Yolo County.

As you are aware, the devastating impacts of diminished water deliveries to the CVP as a result of three years of below average precipitation have been made even greater by the various regulatory restrictions, including the requirements established by the recent federal biological opinions for endangered fish under the ESA. Your legislation will provide immediate, much needed relief in the form of a flexible and useful tool that will allow water to be transferred from willing parties to those in need within the CVP. Further, the language in your legislation directing the Bureau of Reclamation to work with other federal agencies to develop the necessary long-term environmental documentation addressing impacts of a water transfer program on the ESA-listed Giant Garter Snake is a critical and necessary near-term next step.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on this important legislative effort.

Sincerely,

REGINA J. CHEROVSKY,  
Chairperson.

CONGRATULATING DANIEL J.  
SANTORO UPON RECEIVING THE  
2008 CHENEY AWARD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor CPT Daniel J. Santoro, a member of the Tampa Bay community for receiving the 2008 Cheney award for distinguished service in the United States Air Force.

Captain Santoro is a C-130E instructor pilot, assigned to the 37th Airlift Squadron, 86th Operations Group, 86th Airlift Wing, at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Captain Santoro was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 1977; he attended the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, graduating in 2000 with a Bachelor's of Science in Human Factors Engineering.

After graduation, Captain Santoro continued his pilot training at Whiting Field Naval Air Station, in my home State for Florida. His service to our country has taken him to numerous States: Oklahoma, Arkansas, and North Carolina where he constantly worked to improve

his skills to keep our country safe. Often recognized for his leadership and tireless dedication, Captain Santoro was assigned to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, where he would serve bravely in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, among others.

In 2008, as the Chief Tactics and Instructor Pilot, his squadron completed 29 missions and delivered 211 tons of humanitarian cargo, including food and hygiene kits, to the country of Georgia. It is because of these heroic actions that Captain Santoro is receiving the 2008 Cheney Award; which is given for an "act of valor, extreme fortitude, or self-sacrifice in a humanitarian interest, performed in connection with aircraft, but not necessarily of a military nature, by an Air Force officer or enlisted member." The award is named after Lt. William H. Cheney, who was killed in an air collision in Italy in 1918.

Madam Speaker, Captain Santoro is a true testament to the bravery and the sacrifices made by the men and women in the Armed Forces. His accomplishments are significant and an inspiration.

CONGRATULATING ALICIA SEIDEL

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of a brave young girl in my district, Alicia Seidel, and congratulate her for being named an honoree at the 2009 Arthritis Walk happening this Saturday in Bellevue, Washington, and for living her life so bravely while battling her disease.

Alicia, a ten-year-old fifth grader from Sammamish, Washington, was diagnosed in 2007 with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Immediately before and for some time following the diagnosis, Alicia struggled to do something as simple as holding a pencil. Thankfully, the wonderful doctors, specialists and staff at Swedish Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Seattle worked to alleviate the pain Alicia was under, which allowed her to act like the vivacious girl she is. My office had the opportunity to meet Alicia and her mom, Cynthia, more than a year ago to discuss Alicia's ailment and a photo from that meeting is proudly displayed in our office; her infectious nature and sweet disposition made a lasting impact.

The Arthritis Prevention Control and Cure Act, H.R. 1210, of 2009 is legislation I'm proud to have co-sponsored. At this time, the legislation is in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and I encourage the entire House to act on it as quickly as possible because it is an important bill. The bill would, among many other things, focus attention on juvenile arthritis research by creating a juvenile arthritis database and provide financial incentives to encourage more health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology. Additionally, I will continue to work on behalf of young people like Alicia to urge Congress to make a long-term, sustained investment in medical research through the National Institutes of Health because it represents our greatest hope for finding cures and treatments for debilitating conditions like arthritis and freeing Alicia and her family from the constraints of arthritis.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I extend our sincerest congratulations to Alicia, for her courageous spirit and the inspiration provided to 300,000 other young people struggling with this disease today, and our best wishes in the 2009 Arthritis Walk.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CIVIL  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT OF 2009

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2009

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to join Representative BOBBY SCOTT and Chairman JOHN CONYERS in introducing the Civil Access to Justice Act of 2009. This important legislation will expand civil legal services to low-income families and individuals.

In 1974, Congress established the Legal Services Corporation ("LSC") to operate as a private, non-profit corporation to promote equal access to justice under the law and to provide grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income persons. LSC distributes more than 95 percent of its total funding to 137 independent nonprofit legal aid programs to represent low-income individuals and families in every congressional district. Programs receiving LSC grants help the most vulnerable, such as families facing unlawful evictions or foreclosures, displaced persons attempting to obtain federal emergency assistance, and women seeking protection from abuse. In fact, many programs have been besieged recently with requests for foreclosure assistance because of the subprime mortgage crisis.

The current economic downturn will likely lead to more families and individuals needing legal assistance. According to a recently released study commissioned by LSC's Board of Directors, Documenting the Justice Gap in America, many recipient programs of LSC funds must turn away half of all individuals who qualify and seek their assistance because of the lack of resources. Unfortunately, state, local, and private funding and pro bono support have been unable to help close the access to justice gap. The underfunding may result in a potential catastrophe for millions of low-income families and individuals throughout the country who need, but are unable to obtain, legal assistance in matters relating to their housing, employment, and access to health care. Currently, LSC is funded at \$390,000,000, which is insufficient to provide legal representation to all of the impoverished in need of legal assistance. This legislation authorizes an increase in funding for LSC of \$750,000,000, which represents an inflation-adjusted funding level from fiscal year 1981. This funding will help close the justice gap and provide civil legal assistance to all potential eligible clients.

Additionally, the Civil Access to Justice Act eliminates certain restrictions that have significantly limited the ability of legal aid attorneys to represent all low-income families and individuals. First, the bill would remove many restrictions on the use of state, local, and private money by LSC-funded programs. Second, it would eliminate restrictions on the ability of LSC-funded attorneys to represent clients in class action cases. Also, the bill would provide