

I would like to thank all the dancers, supporters, and organizers of this terrific event. This year's Northwestern University Dance Marathon, will take place from March 4th through March 6th, 2011. It is a great opportunity to spend time with members of the community on behalf of a great cause.

HONORING DELPHENIA DAVIS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, thirty-four years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve on the DeKalb Community Service Board; and

Whereas, Mrs. Delphenia Davis has served the citizens of DeKalb County as an Advocate for People with Disabilities and our community has been blessed through her service; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents as an Advocate, Teacher and Motivator, giving the citizens of Georgia a person of great worth, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wish to advance the lives of others; and

Whereas, Mrs. Davis is formally retiring from the DeKalb Community Service Board today, she will continue to serve those in need because she is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Delphenia Davis on her retirement from the DeKalb Community Service Board and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now Therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim January 28, 2011, as Mrs. Delphenia Davis Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, This 28th day of January, 2011.

UNITED NATIONS TAX EQUALIZATION REFUND ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 519, a bill that would prevent vital upgrades to security around the United Nations building and break America's promise to pay legally-mandated U.N. dues. This legislation does not—as my Republican colleagues claim—reduce the deficit. In fact, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined that “implementing H.R. 519 would have no effect on the federal budget.” Unfortunately, H.R. 519 would undercut America's global leadership at a time when international cooperation is urgently needed to safeguard America's interests. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

The United Nations Tax Equalization Fund (TEF) compensates American employees of the U.N. for U.S. taxes paid. Surplus credits remain in the TEF until the U.N. is instructed

by the U.S. how they should be applied. The Department of State has instructed the U.N. to use \$100 million of these credits to increase security around the U.N. complex during the current U.N. building renovation, based on recommendations from the New York Police Department. As the host nation, the U.S. is responsible for the security of the U.N. Ignoring this problem, as the bill would have us do, endangers American lives, and the lives of our foreign guests. Under current law, the remaining \$80 million in credits will be applied to offset upcoming U.N. assessments for critical peacekeeping operations in Haiti and elsewhere. This reduces the need for appropriated funds and lessens the burden on American taxpayers.

If this bill is enacted into law, America would fail to pay its U.N. dues. Choosing to break promises the American people have made to the world could come at a high cost. With new competition on the world stage from China and other emerging nations, and during a time of hope and uncertainty in the Middle East, this is a terrible time to play political games with America's global standing.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 519, and preventing an ideological and imprudent assault on America's commitments to the United Nations.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on a warm summer morning in 1972 I stood outside of the Military Entrance Processing Station in downtown Denver. I was a volunteer for military service, but many of those around me were conscripts—draftees as they were commonly called. As the line moved slowly forward I listened as many of them rehearsed what they would say once they got inside to convince the Army why they were unfit for military service.

The conscript Army that I joined in 1972 suffered from a fundamental lack of discipline and low morale. By 1976 conscription had ended and the last of the draftees had completed their military obligation—the U.S. Army was now an all volunteer force. Every year since then the Army has improved in the quality of its personnel, training, and professionalism. Today, it is a much smaller force but an extraordinarily elite one.

In late 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and in 1980 President Jimmy Carter sought to demonstrate the resolve of the United States against the Soviet incursion. President Carter asked the Congress to reinstate the Selective Service System. Congress did so, and to this day all males are required by law to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

However, conscription has not been requested by our military as a viable option during the first Gulf War, the Iraq War, or for Afghanistan—despite periodic shortages of military personnel. And while many draft age males have failed to meet registration requirements, no one has been prosecuted for failure to comply with this law since 1986. We have a requirement on the books that isn't used and clearly doesn't merit enforcement.

The Select Service System was never meant to be permanent. Now, 31 years and over \$700 million later, and with Congress never having given serious consideration to establishing a conscripted force, it is finally time to end the registration requirement and dismantle the Selective Service System.

Today I introduce legislation to do just this. The bill will allow the President, if needed, to reinstitute national registration by executive order. Until then, my bill will end registration. It will do so without negatively affecting our defense capabilities and will save the taxpayers over \$24 million annually. It also releases military personnel currently working within the Selective Service System to more pressing duties on national security, and removes an obviously moribund and outdated program that was never more than a symbolic gesture.

INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, when the national economy suffers, families face significant financial challenges and pressures—making measures that protect their health and prevent unnecessary job loss more important than ever. Helping families stay afloat in these economic times is critical—even for families of federal employees. That is why I am introducing the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, which would provide 4 weeks of paid parental leave to federal workers following the birth, adoption, or fostering of a child. Paid leave ensures that a new child does not further destabilize families who are struggling to make ends meet.

The federal government should be a leader in family-friendly workplace policy. As the nation's largest employer, with over 1.8 million employees across the nation—including 85% of those outside the Washington, DC area—the federal government can serve as a role model for other employers.

Nearly ten percent of the workforce is unemployed, and many more are underemployed. Millions of families that once relied on two incomes are forced to survive on one—or none at all. A sharp rise in male unemployment has increased the number of families entirely dependent on a woman's earnings. Without paid leave, the birth or placement of a child means that many working families are left with no income at all coupled with rising expenses associated with a new child.

This bill is a straightforward, cost-effective way to help families while rebuilding a strong national economy. As of January 2011, the United States is the only industrialized nation with no paid parental leave. We are in the company of Lesotho, Swaziland and Papua New Guinea by not offering paid parental leave.

In the 111th and 110th Congresses, this bill passed the House with bipartisan support. I hope that my colleagues in the 112th will support this measure. In a tough economy, parents should not have to choose between a paycheck and caring for a new child.