

There is no question we need to rein in spending and put our nation on the path to long-term fiscal sustainability—and at the same time invest in job growth and ensure that America remains competitive in the 21st century global economy. With that in mind, President Obama put forth a tough love budget that reduces our deficit over 10 years, while also investing in our future.

This legislation will add another tool to make sure the investments we make are targeted and designed to maximize economic growth. The establishment of an expedited rescission process will help keep us on a responsible path and enforce greater fiscal discipline. An expedited rescission process allows the President to sign a spending bill into law, and at the same time propose to Congress that certain items in the bill with a budgetary cost be “rescinded” or cancelled. The President sends his recommendations for rescission to Congress within a short time-frame after presentation of the spending bill, and the Congress takes up the proposals on a fast track, acting in a short period after receiving the President’s recommendations. The rescissions take effect only if approved by a majority in each house.

Even though the current law already provides Presidential rescission authority, the law does not ensure that the Congress will vote on the President’s proposed rescissions. By contrast, the measure President Obama is now proposing, and I am introducing by request, adds new procedures that will virtually guarantee a vote. In addition, this version of the bill ensures that any savings from Congressional passage of a rescission approval bill will be dedicated to deficit reduction.

This proposal is another step forward on the path to greater fiscal responsibility. Other Members of Congress, including Chairman RYAN, have proposed different versions of expedited recession legislation in past years. I hope this year we can work together to find common ground in this area.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICAID  
COVERAGE FOR CITIZENS OF  
FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES  
ACT OF 2011

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Medicaid Coverage for Citizens of Freely Associated States Act of 2011. I would like to thank Congressman ENI FALEOMAVEGA, Congresswoman COLLEEN HANABUSA, and Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO for cosponsoring this bill.

Compact Migrants are citizens from Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau that have migrated to the United States. Citizens from these countries are allowed to freely enter the United States without a visa, criminal background check, or health certification due to agreements signed by the Federal Government.

The 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act prohibited Federal Medicaid payments for nonimmigrants, a category that includes Compact Migrants. Prior to this specific prohibition, Compact Migrants were covered by Medicaid. Since enactment of the

Federal welfare reform law, state and territorial governments have been the sole sources of funding for meeting the social service and public health needs of this ever growing population.

In 2007, Hawaii spent over \$37 million to cover the health care costs of the state’s Compact Migrant population. Of this amount, \$30 million would have been eligible for partial Federal reimbursement through the Medicaid program.

The decision to allow citizens of the Freely Associated States to come to the United States was a Federal decision; however, the cost of that decision has fallen mainly on a handful of states and territories. Most Compact Migrants have settled in the Pacific region, likely because the environments and climates are similar to their home nations. Hawaii is home to 12,215 Compact Migrants; Guam, 18,305; and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, 2,100. Compact Migrants are also on the continental United States, including California, Oregon, Washington, and Arkansas—a state where they have been specifically recruited as laborers. Restoring Medicaid coverage is the only fair way to address the Federal mandate.

Our former colleague and now Governor of Hawaii, Neil Abercrombie, worked with Congressman ELIOT ENGEL and Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO on an amendment to provide Medicaid coverage for Compact Migrants during the mark-up of the House health care reform bill by the Energy and Commerce Committee. This amendment was adopted by the Committee by a voice vote.

Regrettably, the Senate health care reform bill did not include comparable language. So today, I am introducing that same, bipartisan supported amendment language as a stand-alone bill.

Restoring the Medicaid eligibility of Compact Migrants is an important issue not only for Hawaii, but also Arkansas, California, Oregon, and Washington as well as the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this important issue.

Mahalo nui loa.

HONORING MARY McCLANNAHAN

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mary McClannahan. Mary is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Mary’s outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Mary has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Mary can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mary McClannahan for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the

USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

HONORING JOSEPH GIROLAMO

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 11, 2011*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Joseph Girolamo, a remarkable Michigan citizen and esteemed veteran, upon his 90th birthday.

Born on March 9, 1921 in New York City, Joseph Girolamo is the oldest of seven children born to Pellegrino and Mary Girolamo. Pellegrino came to the United States as an immigrant from Benevento, Italy during World War I and served in the Army. The young family moved to Detroit when Joe was a toddler. Growing up in Detroit, Joseph Girolamo has made Livonia his home for the last 58 years.

Joseph Girolamo has always been active in his community. As a youngster Joe sold newspapers on the street corners of Detroit. He became a Boy Scout and a proud member of the Junior ROTC in high school. Young Joe joined the army during World War II and served honorably as a staff sergeant of General George Patton’s 7th Army in the European Theatre of Africa, France and Italy. It was during his time in the service that Joe, given his penchant for taking “creative liberties” on the interpretation of music as the camp bugler, became known as the “Boogie Woogie Bugler.”

When World War II ended Joseph came home to begin a 32-year career with Ford Motor Company, working in the Tool and Die Division and holding the position of committeeman. Joe also became a very accomplished bugler. He served as Drum Major for the Wayne County Council and the Detroit Edison Lamplighter Drum and Bugle Corps. Joseph has written drill and instructed many marching units in both the United States and Canada.

During his service as an instructor he trained a women’s drum and bugle corps where he met Lillian Paananen. Finding a genuine harmony, Joseph and Lillian were married on June 12, 1951. The Girolamos quite literally made beautiful music as both became state champion buglers and Joseph became a national champion bugler. On June 5, 1957 Joe and Lillian became parents to daughter Joyce Arlene and their family was complete. After celebrating 40 years of marriage in June of 1991, Joseph’s beloved Lillian succumbed to leukemia in October of that year.

Joseph Girolamo continues to be involved in his community through various veterans’ programs. He is the JR. VICE of VFW Post 3941 and the Patriotic Instructor for American Legion Post 32, both in Livonia. Major Joe teaches flag etiquette to the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and Brownies. He volunteers as a marching and drill instructor with the Livonia Churchill High School Junior ROTC. Major Joe is also a popular speaker at local schools as he shares his involvement and experiences during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, for 90 years Joseph Girolamo has graced the world with his kindness, patriotic dedication, hard work, and community spirit. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Joseph Girolamo upon