

They also serve on boards of several important arts organizations. Mr. Hendel is on the boards of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, New Group, Culture Project, St. Ann's Warehouse, Afropop.org, and the African Museum for Art, and serves on various advisory committees at Yale University. Ms. Hendel serves on the boards of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, LABYRINTH Theater, The Play Company, and the Yale School of Drama Advisory Board.

In addition to their substantial contributions of their time and talents to JTS, Ms. Hendel received a Very Important Parent Award from the Board of Jewish Education and together they have been honored by Westchester/Fairfield County's Crohn's and Colitis Foundation and the Westchester Jewish Center of Marmaroneck.

Married for thirty-three years, the Hendels have three adult children and a son-in-law—Abby and Guy, Sam, and Joe—and one grandson.

The Hendels' commitment to community service and investment in the arts is greatly appreciated and extolled. I urge you to join me today in recognizing their outstanding achievements.

REIMBURSE THE VA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 814, the "Medicare VA Reimbursement Act of 2011."

This legislation authorizes the establishment of a Medicare VA reimbursement program where HHS reimburses the VA for the provision of health care to Medicare eligible veterans for the treatment of non-service connected conditions at VA medical facilities.

Today, there are veterans who have earned VA health care benefits with their service to our country, as well as Medicare benefits by paying into the Social Security system during their working years. Even though these individuals have clearly earned both of these benefits, current law unfairly prohibits them from using their Medicare benefits at VA facilities even though they may feel more comfortable seeking care among their fellow veterans from VA providers who specialize in caring for veterans.

This is also inconsistent with the authorities granted to other federal entities such as the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Department of Defense's (DOD) TRICARE for Life that are allowed to bill Medicare. IHS and DOD are able to augment their resources with Medicare collections and reinvest the extra funding back into their programs and services. H.R. 814 would provide equity in such billing practices among the federal entities. In other words, the VA would be able to access an important new source of revenues from Medicare which may be reinvested to further strengthen the VA's health care system.

In detail, this legislation requires the Secretaries of VA and HHS to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) no later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of the Act. The MOU must establish such program elements as the frequency of reimburse-

ment, the billing system, the data sharing agreement, and the payment rate. H.R. 814 also provides some guidelines on setting the payment rate so that the terms that contributed to the failure of the Medicare DOD Subvention Demonstration Project are not repeated again. For example, this legislation prohibits setting a reimbursement rate which is less than 100% of the amount that Medicare would pay a participating provider. It also prohibits annual caps on reimbursement and does not allow for a maintenance of effort requirement, which refers to the requirement that VA maintain a certain level of spending before they can be reimbursed from HHS.

Finally, H.R. 814 requires an annual report to Congress providing program data, as well as a triennial GAO report assessing the program impact.

I urge your support of this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—TESS MICHAELS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010-2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved

for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work. I salute you.

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

The Red Cross has been an integral part of my life since I founded the school chapter as a freshman and served in the Dallas Red Cross as a Tiffany Circle Intern and the Dallas Red Cross Youth Leadership Council. I hope to inspire my peers to realize that work is its own reward and giving of one's time is the greatest gift. I have seen a strong spirit of volunteerism in the members in installing smoke detectors, organizing fundraisers, and coordinating blood drives. Over 200 members are now actively involved, and by inspiring others to volunteer, the impact on the community increases exponentially. Red Cross blood collections in January were the lowest seen in a decade due to the severe winter storms. I wanted to play an active role and organized a large blood drive as a part of my CYAC community project. I also had the privilege of serving as an attorney in the Plano Municipal Teen Court. I defend and prosecute students from different backgrounds and my hope is that students realize the importance of not letting their impulses take over their common sense and deter them from having a bright future ahead.

—Tess Michaels

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 2011

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 4, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Local Taxpayer Relief Act of 2011, a bill to reauthorize the Impact Aid program.

The majority of public school funding in America comes from local property taxes. However, in areas with military bases, Indian lands, national parks, federal low-rent housing, or other federal property, local school districts cannot collect needed revenue.

Without relief: taxpayers in these federally impacted areas would need to pay more in local taxes to support the same level of education as areas with no federal impact. This is patently unfair.

In 1950, Congress recognized the need to address this inequity and created Impact Aid, the original federal K-12 education law. Impact Aid helps local taxpayers by reimbursing school districts for the costs of hosting federal property and educating federally connected children. Today, Impact Aid supports over 12 million children in more than 1,300 school districts in all 50 states, DC, and U.S. territories.

In Hawaii, we have Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine bases where our brave men and women in uniform are stationed. Thousands of military-dependent children are students in Hawaii schools, but our state cannot collect local taxes from these bases. No matter what type of land you live on—and especially if your family serves our nation—all our children deserve a high-quality education.

Impact Aid is especially important now, as school districts nationwide continue to recover from the greatest recession since the Great Depression. Impact Aid funds come with few strings attached, helping districts support a wide range of vital services.