

MARCH FOR MILITARY WOMEN ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of The MARCH for Military Women Act (Military Access to Reproductive Care and Health), legislation that will help our servicewomen to gain access to reproductive health services. As our servicewomen risk their lives defending our country, it is deeply unfair that they are denied the rights of the Constitution that they defend.

Currently, the health coverage provided to servicewomen fails to cover abortion, even in the case of rape or incest. Moreover, our servicewomen cannot pay for abortions with their own money on overseas military bases, even when local services are unsafe.

The epidemic of sexual assault in the military highlights the unfairness of these prohibitions. Department of Defense statistics show that 3,158 sexual assaults were reported in the military in fiscal year 2010. While shocking, that statistic only reflects a fraction of the sexual assaults, due to under-reporting in the military. Indeed, the Defense Task Force on Sexual Assault in the Military Services report estimated that as many as 90 percent of sexual assaults go unreported. After a woman is assaulted, she should not have to fight to receive medical services such as an abortion.

Access barriers facing rape victims in the military are just one example of the indignities suffered by servicewomen who need to terminate their pregnancies.

Currently, servicewomen are not allowed to purchase abortion services with their own funds on overseas military bases. They were afforded this right until 1988, when the Department of Defense rescinded it. Preventing servicewomen from accessing abortions on military bases means that they may be forced to rely on unsafe local facilities. Failing that, a servicewoman would need to request permission from her supervisor to leave her combat mission and return to the United States.

The current prohibitions in the military are unfair, unjust, and potentially dangerous.

A recent article in Religion Dispatches tells the story of a young Marine, who after being raped, attempted to self-abort. Her only tools were an herbal abortifacient, a rifle cleaning rod, and a laundry pin. Despite dangerous hemorrhaging, she kept working for five weeks until she realized that she needed to return to the United States for medical treatment.

Our servicewomen deserve the right to determine their own destiny, without risking their health unnecessarily. That is why I have introduced legislation that will:

Lift the statutory ban that denies U.S. servicewomen coverage for abortion care in cases of rape or incest;

Lift the statutory ban that prevents women in the military from using private funds to access abortion services at U.S. military facilities.

Our servicewomen deserve better. I urge you to help servicewomen access their constitutionally-protected rights.

VFW POST 2995, REDMOND, WASHINGTON

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of VFW Post 2995 in Redmond, Washington, and its members' dedicated service to our men and women in uniform.

For more than six years now, members of the Post have collected items to put together "comfort packages" for our troops. Each package is sent to an individual service member on the front lines. After six years of dedicated work on behalf of our troops, the Post is celebrating today because they are packing their 10,000th comfort package! To pay their postage expenses, Mr. Speaker, the Post holds fundraisers and accepts donations from appreciative members of the community.

The most dedicated and tireless volunteer involved with the program is an 85-year-old WWII veteran named John Kenny. Mr. Kenny was awarded the Purple Heart for his service in WWII and he certainly deserves recognition for his service now, too.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this House can somehow conduct our work and our lives as selflessly as Mr. Kenny. Please join me in thanking him, Mr. Speaker, and thanking VFW Post 2995 in Redmond for never wavering in their support for the bravest men and women on the face of this earth. 10,000 packages to our troops is quite an achievement and quite a service, thank you.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support the Lowey-Crowley-King-Israel-Roybal-Allard amendment to restore funding to critical Homeland Security programs. Passage of this amendment is vital to sustaining our efforts to keep every U.S. city, state and landmark vulnerable to a terrorist attack safe and secure.

The Homeland Security bill, which was passed out of committee without a single Democratic vote, slashes support for many of our Nation's most important safety and protection programs, including initiatives recommended by the 9/11 Commission.

In particular, I am deeply concerned about the Republicans' cuts to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). After the attacks on New York and Washington, DC on September 11, 2001, I spearheaded an effort to create a new program, the High Threat Urban Area Account Program, mostly commonly referred to as UASI.

The establishment of this program was important because at the time, there was not a single Federal program designed to provide support to the areas in this country that are most at risk of a terror attack. The reality is that while terrorists may want to strike the entire United States, their efforts often target major cities like New York where they can inflict damage on the maximum number of people.

We have UASI for a reason—to make sure that the states that are most threatened by terrorism have the tools they need to prevent and deter attacks before they take place. In New York, grant monies are used to train and better equip first responders and provide them with communication systems to assure preparedness, in addition to improving the monitoring of key infrastructure that is more likely to be targeted, including bridges, subways, skyscrapers and tourist sites. Multiple attempts to attack New York underscore the severity of the threat faced by urban areas, and we cannot diminish our commitment to protecting the American people.

In the days following 9/11, I stood here with Democrats and Republicans alike as we pledged to do everything in our power to make sure that an attack like the one on 9/11 never happens again.

Yet, here we are today looking at cuts to the very programs intended to keep us safe.

The threat of terrorism remains very real, making it essential for cities that face the greatest risk to have the resources necessary to prevent attacks. I strongly urge the House to reverse these damaging cuts.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on official business and missed rollcall vote Nos. 386, 387 and 388. Had I been present, I would have voted, "no" on rollcall vote Nos. 386, 387, 388.

| Bill, Amendment | Roll No. | Vote |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------|
| H.R. 2017, Royce Amendment | 386 | No |
| H.R. 2017, Poe (TX) Amendment | 387 | No |
| H.R. 2017, Cuellar Amendment | 388 | No |

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTEO RIZZO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay tribute to Matteo Rizzo, a lifelong educator who is retiring as Superintendent of the Jefferson Elementary School District, serving the communities of Daly City and Colma, California.

In his tenure as Superintendent, Mr. Rizzo has been known for his personal involvement with all the stakeholders in his district, from teachers, to parents, to administrators and,