

meals. On average, nationwide, we are talking about just 57 dollars per month for nearly 10 million mothers and infants who cannot afford nutritious foods. Almost one-half of the children born in our country rely on WIC. Many of these enter the Medicaid program, and experience has shown that the nutritional benefit to pregnant women results in up to \$4.20 in Medicaid savings for each dollar spent through WIC. Restoring full funding for this program is the smart thing to do for our budget, just as it is the right thing to do for our citizens.

Women and infants are not the only vulnerable population put at greater risk of food insecurity by this bill. The 22 percent cut to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program will prevent at least 130,000 low-income seniors from receiving desperately needed food packages. The 23 percent reduction to the Emergency Food Assistance Program will leave empty shelves at our local food banks, pantries, faith-based organizations, soup kitchens, and shelters. With food prices continuing to rise sharply and Americans continuing to struggle to get ahead in a tough economy, now is not the time to remove the critical safety net provided by these food assistance programs. In addition, food aid for 1.1 million people around the world will be unavailable as a result of the \$476 million cut to the Food for Peace international humanitarian program and the McGovern-Dole program, which provides for the donation of U.S. agriculture goods to school feeding initiatives around the world.

Furthermore, the drastic reduction to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission budget will leave the U.S. economy and consumers in peril. The Commission will not have the resources necessary to prevent the big banks from making the kinds of speculative bets that led to the recent financial crisis. And as gas prices continue to strain household and small business budgets, this bill will do nothing to help the Commission go after excessive speculation in oil markets—even though recent data suggest that nearly 90 percent of those trading in the oil markets are speculators, not legitimate users of oil. These speculators are driving up the price of petroleum and gasoline, and without an effective CFTC with adequate funding, consumers and taxpayers are the losers.

This bill also includes severe funding cuts for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, which will undermine food safety in America and weaken efforts to ensure that medical products and new drugs are safe and accessible. It underfunds research programs to improve food production, safety, and quality as well as initiatives designed to advance organic farming and related markets. And it eliminates almost one billion dollars in conservation programs to protect soil and farmland, maintain healthy agriculture in rural America, preserve key resources, and restore wildlife habitat that supports associated recreational and economic opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture Appropriations bill before us today is one more step in the wrong direction for the Nation's budget, our economy, and our people. It leaves vulnerable low-income women, infants, children, and seniors to fend for themselves even though we know that good nutrition improves health and saves money in the long run. It allows Wall Street speculation to continue unchecked, threatening our economy and driving up gas

prices. It says that we should ignore the needs of our faith- and community-based food service organizations as well as those of hungry children and impoverished people around the world. And it leaves us all at greater risk of encountering food-borne illnesses, sets back research programs, and ignores our conservation needs. The American people expect more of their government, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this deeply flawed bill.

HONORING ALISON SCHIEBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alison Schieber of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Alison is active in the community and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Volunteerism.

As President of the Allied Arts Council, Alison is also serving on the Missouri Citizens for the Arts Board to advocate for the advancement of the arts through education. A Sustainer of the Junior League of St. Joseph, Alison is also a member of the Community Action Committee and a spokesman for the St. Joseph Public Library Modern Library Campaign.

Alison is lauded for her ability to lead by example, understanding the important role the arts play in childhood development. Her advocacy for the arts led to her work with the Missouri Citizen's for the Arts as a lobbyist, working to remove the sunset clause on the Cultural Entertainment tax.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Alison Schieber. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for votes on Friday, June 3, 2011. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 411.

RIDE TO WORK DAY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Congressional Motorcycle Safety Caucus I rise to recognize Ride to Work Day.

Each year the third Monday in June is designated as Ride to Work Day and this year, on June 20, more than a million motorcyclists across the Nation will use their motorcycles to commute. In doing so, these riders will make a statement about the utility, fuel economy

and fun of using motorcycles and scooters for transportation.

The Motorcycle Industry Council's most recent information estimates that more than 21.5 million Americans operated a motorcycle in 2009. Many of these riders visited Tennessee, and specifically the 2nd Congressional District, which features some of motorcycle riders' favorite roads in the Country. Two members of my own staff ride motorcycles for both fun and transportation.

As more and more Americans choose scooters and motorcycles as transportation options, or just choose to ride for recreation, it becomes ever more imperative that each of us does all we can to promote motorcycle safety. This means that motorcyclists must ride responsibly, by getting trained and licensed and obeying traffic safety laws. Other road users can do their part by being aware of motorcyclists and sharing the road.

On June 20, I encourage all riders to gear up and ride to work. I also encourage all other road users to take special note of all the riders on the road and remember to always look out for motorcyclists.

HONORING MURIEL REDMOND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Muriel Redmond of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Muriel is active in the community and has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award: Woman in Volunteerism.

After her marriage, Muriel became active in St. Joseph's Hospital Guild, continuing her interest founded while a student nurse. With her dedicated involvement, she accepted leadership positions, including president. Muriel started the Candy Striper program in 1947, being the first instructor.

Muriel's lifelong interest in the medical field included membership in the Medical Auxiliary. She has been an active member in the Flower Society, Girl and Boy Scouting, and P.E.O. She is a member of Y Women and a supporter of the Abuse Shelter.

As a member of St. Joseph's Cathedral Church and the adjoining school, she supported her children's education with two periods as president in the PTA. She remains active in the Quarter of A Century Nurses and at her present residence, the Living Community of St. Joseph; she was a founder of the Needles and Pins group.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Muriel Redmond. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

MARKING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF AIDS

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 30th anniversary of the first AIDS