

Father Moroney's retirement marks the end of almost half a century's dedication to helping others. He has made important contributions to every parish that he worked in, and helped countless individuals find their way. His leadership will be sorely missed from the Sacramento area and beyond, though his conviction and dedication will be remembered for a long time by the people he encountered across the state.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor Father Moroney, who has been an exceptional community leader. He has devoted his life to serving and to assisting those around him. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Father Moroney the best as he retires.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROBIN DANIELSON ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a long-time advocate of women's health, I am proud to reintroduce the Robin Danielson Act, legislation that would address the unanswered health concerns regarding the safety of tampons. Given the sheer number of women who use these products and the potential cumulative adverse effects, it is time women have definitive answers about the potential risk these products pose to their health.

Today, approximately 73,000,000 women in the United States use tampons made of cotton and rayon and the average woman may use as many as 16,800 tampons in her lifetime. Rayon is a synthetic fiber produced from bleached wood pulp. During this process, dioxin, a probable cancer-causing agent, is created. Although chlorine-free bleaching processes are available, most wood pulp manufacturers use elemental chlorine-free bleaching processes, which continue to produce dioxin. Due to a lack of access to timely and comprehensive information, most women are not fully aware of the potential risks associated with use of the mainstream product. Dioxins in tampons and TSS are serious women's health concerns that have not been adequately monitored, analyzed, or reported.

Like thousands of others, Robin Danielson, whom the bill is named after, was the victim of Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS), a rare but potentially life-threatening illness that is often linked to high-absorbency tampon use. Robin's death could have been prevented if only she had recognized the symptoms. Even today, many women are not fully aware of the risks of tampon use or TSS. This legislation would direct the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct research to determine the extent to which the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in tampons and related products pose any health risks to women and asks the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to collect and report information on Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS).

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, one to two of every 100,000 women between the ages of 15–44 years old will be diagnosed with TSS each year. Yet, the last national surveillance was conducted in 1987 and reporting of TSS by the states is voluntary. It is clear we do not have enough

transparent or timely information to evaluate the reality of TSS today.

This legislation is necessary to provide women with accurate information about the safety of tampons and to increase awareness about the risk of TSS.

RECOGNITION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, on June 30, 1761, the town of Belcher's Town, Massachusetts, was incorporated by the colonial Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Sir Francis Bernard. The town is named for Jonathan Belcher, colonial Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay from 1730 until 1741. After 250 years of development and innovation, Belchertown continues to promote civility and cooperation amongst its citizens.

Overlooking the Connecticut and Quaboag Valleys, Belchertown has long been a town connected to the thoroughfares passing through the area. Many of the original buildings were taverns to accommodate travelers; however, the first railroad in 1850 allowed greater diversity in the town's commercial endeavors. In the past century, Belchertown has continued to prosper while maintaining the community-oriented charm familiar to most of western Massachusetts.

The commitment to volunteerism and community service is traced throughout Belchertown's history. Its citizens stand as an example of what hard work and resolve can accomplish, as evidenced by the formidable carriage industry in the early 1800s, the town's first library in 1887, the development of Quabbin Reservoir in 1927, and the brave service of numerous citizens in every U.S. war except the War of 1812.

On the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the town of Belchertown, Massachusetts, I congratulate its citizens and praise their dedication and perseverance throughout the town's history. I look forward with enthusiastic support as we continue to work together for a prosperous future.

HONORING JAMES ADDY

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor, James Addy, the mayor of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Mayor Addy will retire this month after 10 successful years in the mayor's office. Jim has been Mayor since 2001 and is a professor of social studies at Bowie State University, where he teaches courses in American history. He has served a stalwart career as a public official and has worked relentlessly to improve his community.

Mayor Addy brought an honest and clear vision to Harper's Ferry where he has worked to

bring a better life to its citizens. I have always valued his wise counsel.

In his terms in office, Mayor Addy has applied his wealth of knowledge. As a professor, he knows the common thread of American history and how lessons learned in the past are often repeated in the future. As a teacher and former assistant principal, he applied his ability to build relationships and mentor those who will follow in his footsteps, especially the younger generation. And finally as a product of a childhood in a neighborhood of Baltimore, he brought the idea of working for a better community and a greater good.

Mayor Addy, I hope that you enjoy your time out of public service. I know you will continue to teach and affect the young lives that you so believe in. I know that you will continue to be involved in all aspects of Harpers Ferry and its future.

You have done a great job. I wish you the very best.

AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1249) to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform:

Mr. PENCE. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act, which is a carefully-crafted compromise that will modernize our nation's patent laws to allow for greater innovation, economic growth and job creation.

Years of hard work have gone into this bill. I would like to congratulate and thank Chairman SMITH and Rep. GOODLATTE for their leadership and diligence.

The Constitution vests in Article I, Section 8, clause 8, the power to Congress to "promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to . . . Inventors the exclusive Right to their . . . Discoveries."

Our patent laws were written nearly sixty years ago, and it is time to update them to account for changes in our modern economy. It is Congress's power and responsibility to do so, especially with the problems that are evident with the patent system today.

And not doing so will cost our country even more jobs. Patent reform is about jobs because intellectual property, like other forms of private property, is a pillar of economic prosperity. Part of creating a pro-growth environment in this country includes modernizing our patent laws.

I have heard about the need for modernization from countless Hoosier business leaders, patent holders and entrepreneurs. Indiana has a long tradition of leadership in the life sciences and medical industry. Indiana also has a robust university research system, growing tech industry and, of course, a manufacturing industry that grows more high-tech with each passing year.

These and many other sectors of the Hoosier economy will benefit from the reforms in this bill. When inventors and entrepreneurs are able to protect their inventions and speed