

This week, the House will consider a bill to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board established under the Affordable Care Act. Having previously garnered bipartisan support, the majority's decision to attach a medical liability provision to the underlying piece of legislation amounts to nothing short of a partisan ploy to score points with their base.

The language attached to the bill would place caps on medical malpractice awards for pain and suffering at \$250,000 and would override most state tort laws. Unfortunately, the majority's decision to include tort reform language on a completely unrelated measure demonstrates their refusal to work with Members across the aisle in order to further strengthen the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act provides American families with stability and peace of mind. Never again will they have to choose between their health and their livelihood. As a result of the Affordable Care Act, 23,000 children and 90,000 adults in my district now have health insurance that covers preventive services without paying any co-pays, coinsurance, or deductibles.

I am proud to be a part of this historic health care policy change, and to be part of the days ahead in which we will work to further strengthen it.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH  
TRAN, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012  
PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY  
AWARD

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Elizabeth Tran for exemplary volunteer service. Elizabeth, age 17, of Orlando, has been named one of the top honorees in Florida by the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each State and the District of Columbia.

Elizabeth is a junior at Cypress Creek High School and has raised more than \$20,000 to support the Children's Miracle Network in the first two years of the "Miss Miracle" charity pageant, an annual event that she created. The "Miss Miracle" pageant is conducted in cooperation with Teens Go Green, an organization co-founded by Elizabeth and dedicated to raising public awareness for protecting the environment. All "Miss Miracle" contestants raise money to support the organization, and those contestants who raise the most are crowned "Miss Miracle."

The Prudential Spirit of Community Award was created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals to encourage youth volunteers in their contributions to society, to emphasize the value of volunteerism, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past 17 years, the program has become the Nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has involved more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, State, and national level.

It is my pleasure to commend Elizabeth for her energy and initiative in seeking to make

her community and world a better place to live by supporting organizations such as the Children's Miracle Network. Her commitment and accomplishment is extraordinary in today's world and deserves recognition. Her actions remind us that young Americans can play an important role in our communities.

On behalf of the citizens of central Florida, I am pleased to recognize Elizabeth Tran's selflessness and enthusiasm for serving others and for making a difference. The kind of altruism evident in Elizabeth's efforts represents our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow. May her efforts inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

A TRIBUTE TO MONICA PEARSON

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Monica Pearson is a familiar face to metro Atlanta's residents, though most know her by her former name—Monica Kaufman. For the past 37 years, Monica has anchored WSB-TV's Channel 2 Action News. The character and amount of trust she has built as Channel 2's nightly newscaster is laudable, but perhaps more important are the barriers she broke as she developed that reputation. Born and brought up in the Civil Rights era, Monica became not only the first African-American, but also the first woman to anchor a daily evening newscast on WSB in 1975.

Throughout her long career, Monica has accumulated an even longer list of awards and achievements. All in all, she has won thirty Local and Southern Regional Emmy awards. When she saw injustice or a story that needed to be heard, she was there reporting on it—first at the 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. segments, and later at 4 p.m. Her hard-hitting investigative journalism cuts at all different issues. In 1992 she spoke out on behalf of women and girls in Georgia when she found out that the Georgia High School Association's all-male executive committee did not have a state-wide competition for girls' soccer or cheerleading. She was awarded the Women's Sports Journalism Award for Local Television Reporting from the Women's Sports Foundation and Miller Lite for her report.

Monica has been honored for bringing attention to a wide range of issues—from the "HOT FLASH! The Truth about Menopause" documentary that won local and national awards in 1994 to the "Prejudice and Hate: Georgians and the Holocaust" documentary that led her to win the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust's Humanitarian Award in 1977. Her sense of civic duty, compassion and curiosity has distinguished her from her peers, winning an Emmy Award for Best Feature Program—"Monica Kaufman Closeups," the National Foundation for Women Legislators' "Media Excellence Award" and the Georgia Commission of Women's "2004 Georgia Woman of the Year."

While devoting her life to journalism, she has also deeply involved herself in the community. She remains a passionate supporter of the Metropolitan United Way, the organization that helped her move beyond her poor background to become an award-winning news-

caster. Since then, she has served as Chair of Atlanta's United Way board, the first African-American and only the second woman. Her dedication to the organization might be due in no small part to the fact that her daughter was adopted through a United Way agency. In her own words, "United Way literally unites people."

United Way is not the only organization that has touched Monica's heart. For many years, Monica ran in the Susan G. Komen's Race for the Cure. She continued to run in the race and volunteer for the organization until the year she herself was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her reaction to this cancer is a story that truly touched my heart. A very religious woman, Monica did not let fear cripple her—instead she left everything to God. She prayed, "Thy will be done, O Lord, not mine." "If you are really strong in your faith, then you don't worry about the outcome," she said. The outcome is obvious—Monica remains to this day a strong, dedicated woman. She is both an inspiration and a role model. Monica will be retiring in July, but I know her character, personality and spirit will not let her keep still. I wish her the very best in her future endeavors, and may we continue to hear of her excellent work for her community. God Bless.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR  
OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE  
SCOUT

**HON. SANDY ADAMS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Joshua Beard for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Joshua has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

**HON. CHAKA FATTAH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 21, 2012*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an accomplished and distinguished member of the United States Senate who is achieving a milestone worthy of recognition in this body.

Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI is the longest-serving woman in congressional history. Before being sworn into the Senate in 1986, Senator MIKULSKI served in this chamber for five terms. She has now served the people of Maryland for more than 35 years.

Senator MIKULSKI is the daughter of Polish American small-business owners, who taught her the meaning of hard work. She attended Mount Saint Agnes College and the University