

title of the measure was a misnomer. The proposed law did not seek to fight sex-based discrimination in our society, but was rather designed to cut down the personal rights of women.

Let me be clear, I am opposed to sex-selection abortion based on gender. However, the legislation voted upon yesterday was overbroad and dangerous. It proposed harsh sentences for doctors and individuals that strive to provide support to a woman as she makes difficult decisions concerning her personal health. It threatened the sanctity of doctor-patient confidentiality, and would have created an environment that allowed hearsay to be used as a weapon to impose Federal regulation on a purely personal matter.

Let's see this bill for what it truly was. It was yet another attempt to undermine a woman's right to choose. It was an insidious attack on personal rights. We have fought hard for our rights as women, and I will never stand by idly as some in Congress try to destroy something women like me hold so dear! If this Congress was serious about taking up issues of discrimination it would have wasted its time on this bill. We should be using our precious time here to discuss is our unequal education system, our disproportionate access to capital, or the lack of basic medical care that 47 million Americans deal with daily. Apparently, some of us believe that discrimination only exists in the womb. This type of hypocrisy and two handed policy-making must stop, and I suggest proponents of the bill examine whether or not the measure goes along with the ideals of limited government that are supposed to drive their agenda.

I am glad that we defeated the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, and promise that I will fight to strike down any other measure of the same nature in the future.

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#### MURFREESBORO ISLAMIC CENTER

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today saddened that yet another community in America is attempting to stop construction of an Islamic Center, this time in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Unlike the controversy that surrounded the construction of the Islamic Center near the World Trade Center Memorial, the opponents here cannot mask their disdain for Muslim Americans by claiming to act on behalf of the families of the victims of 9/11. In fact, the opponents have not even tried, instead letting their prejudice and paranoia dictate their course.

It is ironic that these opponents contend, without any evidence, that Muslim Americans in Murfreesboro want to replace the Constitution, while they hypocritically ignore freedom of worship, a belief so central to our Nation it is enshrined in the 1st Amendment.

What makes America great is our people's unshakeable love of freedom and a monumental history that welcomes every viewpoint, faith, and background. As our Nation grows and its diversity widens, we must not forget the values on which we were founded.

We cannot, in one instance, celebrate freedom of expression, and in the next, silence

those with whom our viewpoints differ. We cannot, in one breath, claim that all Americans are free to worship as they see fit, and in the next, oppose an effort to build the house of worship that makes exercising that freedom possible.

Anyone can embrace freedom of expression when their viewpoints go unchallenged. The American way means that those who vehemently disagree are able to speak their views side by side and that differing faiths can be practiced streets apart. We must all ask ourselves—will we abandon our Constitutional principles when they allow others to voice opinions that are contrary to our own or practice a faith different than our own? Or will we stand up for the freedom of all Americans to practice their own beliefs? That is the true test of what it means to be American.

The Murfreesboro Islamic Center has been facing down protests since 2010 and is once again making headlines after a judge ruled that the local officials did not provide sufficient public notice under local law before approving the project. I know that the Muslim American community would want this project completed in accordance with local ordinances, so I fully expect they will work with officials to ensure the appropriate process is followed.

Once these processes are completed, I hope that opponents will recognize that construction is protected by our Constitution. Additional vandalism and intimidation is counter to everything we stand for as Americans and everything that makes our country great.

We are better than this as a Nation. Our proud history and hard-fought principles demand more.

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CONGRATULATING BETTY  
ESNAULT AS THE 2012 COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOREE FOR THE LAMBDA RHO ZETA CHAPTER OF ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY

### HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Betty Esnault of the Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. as she is recognized by the chapter as the 2012 Community Service Honoree.

Whether in a professional setting or during her countless hours of community service, Mrs. Esnault has dedicated herself to the improvement of others' lives. Her commitment to the health and safety of her co-workers was evident from the beginning of her career at General Motors, where she worked to improve the conditions of the assembly processes through the introduction of ergonomics. Using her knowledge of ergonomics from her studies at the former General Motors Institute and the University of Michigan, Mrs. Esnault worked with industry designers to implement ergonomically-sound policies. Through Mrs. Esnault's efforts to acquire ergonomically designed tools and safer production practices, innovative assembly processes were developed to both improve working conditions and eliminate employees' risk of injury. Mrs. Esnault retired from General Motors after a successful 32 year career as a Technical Integration Engineer.

After retiring from GM, Mrs. Esnault shifted her focus to helping her neighbors and fellow Southeast Michigan residents. As a member of the St. Damien Catholic Parish and a graduate of the Sacred Heart Major Seminary with a diploma in Pastoral Ministry, Mrs. Esnault is active in planning worship services, serving as a substitute teacher for religious education, and singing in the choir. Mrs. Esnault also spends her time volunteering with various organizations, reaching out to help her community in a variety of ways. Mrs. Esnault volunteers at American House in Pontiac where she leads Communion services. She is also on the Board of Directors and volunteers at the Matchan Nutrition Center, an organization that serves nutritious lunches to residents of Oakland County in need. She also serves on the Board of Directors and volunteers at Fr. Pops' Clinic, a free clinic with volunteer doctors who provide health care services to those without insurance.

In addition to her service in the community, Mrs. Esnault is a loving wife and mother. She has also been recognized as a Life Member of the NAACP and a Gold Life Member of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Betty Esnault has made it her mission to improve the lives of others. She has dedicated countless hours to this pursuit both professionally and philanthropically over many decades. Her zeal to serve others is both inspiring and moving, as there is no doubt that her work has been felt by so many across Southeast Michigan. I am pleased to honor Mrs. Esnault as she receives her award from Lambda Rho Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

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HONORING ROBIN GREGORIUS,  
ALABAMA SMALL BUSINESS  
PERSON OF THE YEAR

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 1, 2012*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Robin Gregorius, who was recently selected the 2012 Alabama Small Business Person of Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Ms. Gregorius' personal story is a testament to her determination to realize her dream of establishing an assisted living center that addresses the needs of her patients for the comforts and of home rather than a care facility.

The daughter of immigrant parents from the former nation of Czechoslovakia, Ms. Gregorius grew up on a farm in Robertsedale in Baldwin County, Alabama.

Her career as a registered nurse took her across the country, both near and far, including the cities of New Orleans and Los Angeles. Yet, she returned to the Mobile area to put her knowledge to work for local patients who would benefit from her new approach to assisted living care.

In a recent interview with the Mobile Press-Register, Ms. Gregorius noted that over her career she had observed that her older patients longed for "homey" surroundings in their care facilities with home cooking—important touches that were often lacking in assisting living quarters. And equally important, the staff in many care facilities seldom offered the