

a single truth—they do not want ObamaCare. Young people don't want it because it increases their costs—making them pay high prices for care they don't need or cannot afford. Patients with chronic illnesses don't want it because it allows a board of bureaucrats to restrict access to life saving treatments if they cost too much. Seniors don't want it because it takes \$575 billion out of the Medicare program and will make it harder for them to find a physician or hospital for treatment when they are sick.

Tomorrow, the Supreme Court will rule on the constitutionality of ObamaCare. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of work ahead of us but one thing is certain: my former patients do not want ObamaCare in any way, shape, or form.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, because my scheduled flight into Washington was cancelled yesterday afternoon, I was absent from the House Floor during four rollcall votes taken on Tuesday.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcalls 412, 413, and 415, and "no" on rollcall 414.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS' BENEFITS IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I submit the attached June 19, 2012 letter from Chuck Canterbury, National President of the National Fraternal Order of Police, in regards to H.R. 4018, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Improvements Act of 2012.

NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

Washington, DC, June 19, 2012.

Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. LAMAR S. SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMEN: I am writing this letter on behalf of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police to advise you of our support for H.R. 4018, the "Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Improvements Act," introduced by Representative Michael G. Fitzpatrick (R-PA), and S. 1696, the Senate companion bill introduced by Chairman Leahy. It is our understanding that both committees have agreed to compromise language and we are pleased to offer our support for this bipartisan, bicameral bill.

The legislation, which has received a neutral score from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), will reduce claims processing delays, reduce administrative costs, and make explicit that beneficiaries of Federal death or disability benefits must offset one award with another. The legislation as crafted and considered by the Judiciary Committees in both chambers is widely supported in the law enforcement and public safety community.

It was distressing in the extreme to learn that further action on the legislation is being deliberately blocked by Senator Thomas A. Coburn, MD (R-OK), who has taken his anti-public safety agenda to new lows by calling for the repeal of the PSOB program or to at least restrict it to Federal officers. The FOP views this not as a politician embracing the principle of federalism, but as a transparently cynical and cowardly ploy to place even greater strain between law enforcement and other public safety officers that serve on the local and State level and their colleagues employed by the Federal government. When a police officer puts himself in harm's way, he does not stop to think about jurisdiction. He does not ask the offender if he is committing a local, State or Federal crime. He acts in the best interest of the safety of those he has sworn to protect. A family that loses a loved one in the line of duty should not just be left adrift, their sacrifice ignored because their loved one was a local firefighter or State Trooper and not a Federal agent.

Since Senator Coburn was sworn in as a U.S. Senator, seventeen police officers have been killed in the line of duty in Oklahoma. Seventeen families lost a son, father or brother, and I am sure some or all of these families relied on the PSOB program to help them through the financial hardships they faced after the loss of their loved one. Senator Coburn would punish the families of the fallen—the heroes who put their life on the line and paid the ultimate price.

I know both of you reject Senator Coburn's call for the repeal of the PSOB program, and I commend you both of your constant support of the program and of the rank-and-file officers that protect our homes and neighborhoods. The legislation will improve the ability of the PSOB Office to process death and disability claims more swiftly and efficiently, providing the families of our fallen with the help they need. On behalf of the more than 330,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, I thank you both for your dedication and outstanding leadership on this issue. If I can be of any further assistance on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF FORT ROSS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bicentennial of the establishment of

the Russian colony at Fort Ross. Founded in September 1812 by Russian explorers, Fort Ross was the southernmost Russian settlement in North America and the first European settlement in Sonoma County. After the fort's assets were sold to John Sutter in 1841, Fort Ross became a shipping hub and tourist destination and in 1909 it was established as one of California's first State Historic Parks.

This year we commemorate the natural, cultural, and human history of Fort Ross, which has been influenced by diverse groups of people, including Russians, Kashaya, Pomo, and Miwok Natives, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Americans. These diverse groups, who settled at Fort Ross or lived in the surrounding area, made important contributions to early California history: they built California's first ships and windmills, introduced glass-paneled windows, created the first brickyard, and catalogued the local plant and animal life. At Fort Ross, Native people of various tribes lived, hunted, and labored alongside the Russian colonists; many learned Russian and intermarried with both Russians and Natives of other tribes. The story of the people of Fort Ross is unique, and it serves as an excellent example of the best that California and Sonoma County have to offer the world: a rich history, diverse cultural legacy, beautiful nature, and dedicated people.

Today, Fort Ross is a National Historic Landmark visited by 150,000 people each year. It also still serves as an important connection between Sonoma County and Russia. In 2010, California State Parks signed an agreement with Russia's Renova Group, creating a public-private partnership to provide financial support for Fort Ross. The Fort Ross Renova Foundation continues to provide support for maintenance, educational programs, cultural events, and other initiatives for the enhancement of Fort Ross.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Ross is an important cultural and historical landmark celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of its founding. Please join me in honoring the bicentennial of the establishment of Fort Ross.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GARY C. SAIN

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to a good friend and national leader for tourism, Mr. Gary C. Sain. Gary passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 4th after addressing a dinner event in support of the Central Florida Boys and Girls Club, which was one of his community efforts, where he provided vital leadership in support of our youth. I was at that event and spoke to Gary as he shared his excitement about Central Florida