

among themselves and with the government. I certainly support that goal. However, I cannot support this bill in its current form because I believe it does not sufficiently protect the privacy of Americans. Specifically, the bill does not include sufficient protections against the disclosure of sensitive personal information.

Under the bill, companies are not required to extract personal information from the data they collect and share. Sharing un-scrubbed personal information with other companies or with government agencies can potentially put the civil liberties of Americans at risk if the data is misused or handled improperly. The bill also grants companies excessively broad immunities from legal responsibility for the disclosure or misuse of this data.

Many of the amendments accepted on the floor this week provide increased protections for information once it is received by the government, but that is no substitute for protecting it when it is initially collected by companies or when they share the data with each other. The White House has threatened to veto this bill if these issues are not adequately addressed.

I opposed this bill last year for similar reasons. I welcome the changes made to the bill this year to address some of those concerns. For example, no longer can receiving government agencies use information for national security purposes. Additionally, increased protections for personal data have been added for the information when it is placed in government hands. These changes improve the bill, but they do not go far enough to prevent the unwarranted and unnecessary disclosure of private information.

I believe that the cyber threats we face in this country are real, present and destructive. However, I believe that we can address these cyber threats without opening the door to unnecessary disclosure of private information. The companies who collect sensitive data about Americans should be required to safeguard that data to the fullest extent of their ability. The shortcomings of this bill can be easily addressed and I hope the Senate will make these necessary changes. I look forward to supporting a future bill that achieves that goal.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1549, HELPING SICK
AMERICANS NOW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule on H.R. 1549, the so-called "Helping Sick Americans Act."

This ill-conceived and misguided legislation takes funds from the Prevention and Public Health Fund to increase financing of the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Program, PCIP. This sounds laudable but the facts are that this bill hurts an important program that our nation needs. The rule for the bill does not address the problems with this legislation.

Cutting funding from public health funds is a risky move. We know from countless studies

that money invested in public health is a solid investment. It improves the lives of thousands of Americans, especially our most vulnerable members: the elderly, the young, the sick, the disabled and the poor.

In March 2010, Congress passed and President Obama signed the historic health reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. In addition to extending life-saving health insurance coverage to 31 million by 2019, the law includes a suite of provisions that have the potential to substantially reform our nation's health care system.

One of these provisions is the establishment of the Prevention and Public Health Fund. This is the nation's first dedicated mandatory federal funding stream for public health and prevention activities.

The Prevention Fund was created to increase the nation's investment in prevention in order to improve health outcomes and decrease health care costs.

In the first two years of its existence, 2010 and 2011, the Fund provided \$1.25 billion for critical programs that prevent tobacco use, decrease HIV rates, increase physical activity and healthy eating, increase immunization rates, and many other activities.

States and communities across the nation are already implementing and benefiting from these programs.

Public health is an essential component of the U.S. health system: its infrastructure and prevention-based programs wrap around clinical health systems to improve population health and reduce health care costs.

Local health departments work with a wide range of community partners to create conditions and policies that help people make healthy choices, such as avoiding tobacco use, becoming more physically active, and eating healthier foods. All these proactive measures contribute to the prevention of chronic diseases and associated risk factors like obesity and smoking.

For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this rule.

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of the innocents that perished in 1915 during the Armenian Genocide.

With a systematic barbarism visited upon them, countless Armenians made their way to Syria seeking refuge from persecution. Today, the world is aghast at the horrific violence engulfing Syria and the Armenian people are once again threatened with upheaval and displacement.

Each year, the United States Congress has the opportunity to stand with justice and recognize the Armenian Genocide. Such action would fortify America's moral standing in the family of nations and send a strong message to our NATO ally Turkey that it must examine the dark chapters of its past and the discriminatory impulses of its present.

Turkey has repeatedly thwarted efforts by Congress and successive administrations to recognize the Armenian Genocide by threatening all manner of retaliation should recognition be accorded. I submit that we do no favors to Turkey by acquiescing in its cynical campaign. Turkey's path to the European Union, its abysmal relations with its ethnic and religious minorities, particularly its violent conflict with the Kurdish people, would all improve if the Armenian Genocide was addressed openly and honestly.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015, it is time for the United States to formally recognize this tragic chapter in world history and to bring some measure of peace and healing to those of Armenian descent.

CELEBRATING "LITTLE WALTER"
AND THE INAUGURAL LITTLE
WALTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebrating "Little Walter" and the inaugural Little Walter Music Festival which will strike a chord in Alexandria, LA, on Saturday, May 4, 2013. Additionally, I would like to call attention to this much-anticipated festival for enhancing economic development and quality of life by unifying and celebrating Louisiana's interests.

The festival, honoring Rock & Roll Hall of Famer, Blues sideman and bandleader Little Walter, will take place on the Red River. Headlining the event is the "Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, LMHOF, Little Walter Legends." Multiple Louisiana Blues harp artists, LMHOF member Henry Gray, who played with Little Walter in Chicago, and a cast of Louisiana Blues All Stars will help usher "Little Walter" into The Louisiana Music Hall of Fame with a presentation from LMHOF President Mike Shepherd. Closing the event is a jam session featuring Lady Liz Neville, former lead vocalist in the Hotel Bentley's Mirror Room, along with the LMHOF "Legends" band on Little Walter's classic hits, "Juke" and "My Babe."

Little Walter, born Marion Walter Jacobs near what is now Spring Bayou Road in the small town of Marksville, LA, revolutionized the sound of the Blues harmonica through amplification just by clasp a microphone to the harmonica as he played. He spent several years in Alexandria before making his way to Chicago to eventually become a member of Muddy Waters band, where he began recording his unique style of Blues. According to his 2008 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction, Little Walter "could make a harmonica moan and roar like a full horn section or produce an unearthly, haunting wail."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the Little Walter Music Festival the best of luck, and for its part in retaining the charm and spirit of our region. Lastly, I rise in celebration of Little Walter and his accomplishments making the Blues sound what it is today.