

As a former member of the Armed Services Committee I understand the obstacles facing our fight to eliminate terrorism worldwide. H.R. 4569 will remove at least one of these obstacles by promoting interagency cooperation. ISIS is not a traditional enemy and it is critical our security and intelligence agencies support one another. I support H.R. 4569 and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM DIS-
ABILITY INSURANCE ACT OF 2018

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Employee Short-Term Disability Insurance Act of 2018, which will help provide financial relief for federal employees who have a short-term injury or disability, become pregnant, or develop a pregnancy-related illness. This bill will offer federal employees short-term disability insurance at no cost to the federal government. Employees will be responsible for 100 percent of the premiums, and will be able to receive disability insurance benefits for up to one year, which would replace a portion of their lost income due to a non-work related injury or illness or pregnancy. These benefits will be particularly beneficial to ensure that our federal employees, who do not yet enjoy paid maternity leave, are able to utilize the 12 weeks of unpaid maternity leave permitted by federal law while continuing to pay their bills, buy groceries and make their mortgage, car and other loan payments without having to deplete their retirement or other savings accounts. Too many federal employees do not take advantage of federal unpaid maternity leave because they have no way to replace the lost income.

I decided to investigate how we could provide short-term disability insurance for federal employees after learning that many of them already buy short-term disability insurance as individuals in the private market at high individual rates. Although federal employees have good health insurance, federal health benefits do not replace lost income if employees are unable to work. Moreover, while federal employees may have available sick or annual leave days, they may not have enough such days to pay the bills if they have to be out of work for an extended period. Although there are long-term disability options for federal employees who become permanently disabled, federal employees do not qualify for such benefits until they have worked for the federal government for at least 18 months. My bill does no more than put federal employees in the same position as their private-sector counterparts, who often have access to disability insurance through an employer at group rates. This bill will not allow participating insurance companies to exclude persons based on pre-existing conditions. Because of the federal government's purchasing power, this bill will provide these benefits at a more competitive rate than is available if an employee sought such insurance as an individual, as many do.

According to the Social Security Administration, a 20-year-old worker has a one-in-four chance of becoming disabled by retirement

age. The majority of disabilities are not caused by major accidents, but by injuries or illnesses, such as back injuries or cancer, according to the Council for Disability Awareness. There is every reason to allow our federal employees to take advantage of the federal government's group rates to obtain the most reasonable price if they choose to purchase short-term disability coverage on their own at no cost to the federal government.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CONCEPCION "CONNIE" B.
DUENAS

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Concepcion "Connie" B. Duenas. Connie was a proud daughter of Guam and faithful public servant. She served as a Guam Mayor of the village of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon from 2001 to 2005, and as the Vice Mayor of the village from 1998 to 2000. Connie was born on December 29, 1933 and passed away on January 4, 2018 at the age of 84.

Connie was the daughter of Juan Guerrero Balijadia and Anuncia Quitugua Reyes. She was married to Juan S.A. Duenas and together had four children. Connie was a member of Guam's greatest generation who survived the occupation of Guam during World War II.

Connie graduated from George Washington High School in 1954 and attended the Guam Territorial College and the University of Guam. She joined the Guam Police Department in 1956 and advanced to the rank of sergeant in 1971. Connie was the first female in the Guam police Department to achieve this rank. Connie worked in different capacities while at the Guam Police Department as an administrative and record specialist, and did field work in traffic control, vice squad and juvenile delinquency. She retired at the rank of lieutenant in 1978.

Connie was also very involved in the local community and volunteered her time with many organizations. She was a founding member and served as president for Victims Advocate Reaching Out, an organization which assists victims of crimes such as rape, abuse, and other traumatic experiences. She served as the treasurer for Guma Mami, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to people with disabilities. She served as the president of the parent teacher associations of various schools in the village of Tamuning. Connie additionally served the parish of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Tamuning faithfully for many years as a leader in the church and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teacher.

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Concepcion "Connie" B. Duenas and I join the people of Guam in celebrating her life. She was a dedicated public servant who worked to improve our village of Tamuning-Tumon-Harmon, and the broader community during her tenure. Her involvement in village events and service in public safety were testaments of her

leadership and commitment to the people she served. My thoughts and prayers are with her family, loved ones and friends.

I extend my condolences to her husband Juan and their children Kathy, Eleanor, Yvonne and John and their numerous grandchildren and family members. She will be deeply missed, and her memory will live on in the hearts of the people of Guam.

GLOBAL AVIATION SYSTEM
SECURITY REFORM ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4559.

H.R. 4559, the Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017, aims to conduct a global aviation security review to improve global aviation security standards. H.R. 4559 directs the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to comprehensively review challenges facing the global aviation system and review aviation security implementation. This legislation encourages cooperation between multiple agencies of the Federal Government, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the TSA to ensure proper coordination and outreach both within and outside of the United States government.

The DHS and the TSA have expressed concerns about threats to inbound civil aviation. To manage these threats, key aspects of H.R. 4559 would work to improve the security at last point of departure airports overseas and more generally improve security at airports across the world. We must establish global aviation security standards to create safer skies across the world.

Additionally, as a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure committee, ensuring the safety of transportation mechanisms has been of paramount importance to me, and as a member of the subcommittee on Aviation, I am particularly concerned with this issue. Georgia is home to the busiest airport in the world; 55 million passengers annually travel through Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International airport. I will do everything I can to protect passengers in Georgia, the United States, and the world. I wholeheartedly support H.R. 4559 and urge my fellow members to do the same.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
BRIGADIER GENERAL ANNA HAYS

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Allentown native Anna Mae Hays, the first woman in the history of the U.S. Armed Forces to be awarded the rank of a general. After a life spent serving in the army and contributing to the Allentown community, Anna passed away in Washington on January 6 at the age of 97.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y. in 1920, Brigadier General (BG) Hays moved to what is now