

to the medications they need to stay healthy. It is my hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will work with me to make changes to Part D that improve and strengthen it for our seniors and help forge a prescription drug benefit that is meaningful, affordable and straightforward. The new leadership in Congress cares a great deal about our seniors, and it is time that we fulfill our promise to ensure that Part D serves seniors in the best way possible.

IRAQ ESCALATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, President Bush—after using false information to sell a war to the American people and Congress, after invading Iraq without a plan to win the peace, after time and time again maintaining a failed “stay the course” policy—is now trying to sell an escalation of the war in Iraq as “a new way forward.” I am not buying it.

As the sister of a Vietnam veteran, I still remember vividly our escalation of that failed war and the thousands of additional lives that it cost. I remember vividly the worry I had for my brother and the feeling that our troops would be better served if they were returned home rather than fighting in another country's civil war. Those are the same feelings I have today about our troops who are serving bravely in today's failed war, the Iraq War.

I have long stated my desire for the President to begin a withdrawal of our troops from Iraq. I am a member of the Out of Iraq Caucus, and I have strongly supported my colleague JOHN MURTHA's plan to redeploy our troops from Iraq. The American people made it crystal clear at the ballot box in November that staying the course in Iraq is not an option. Yet, President Bush has once again turned his back on calls to end the war, he has turned his back on the will of the electorate, and he is going in the opposite direction with a plan for escalation.

I applaud the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate and its plan for a phased redeployment of American troops beginning in months and for more intense diplomatic outreach. This plan is more sensible and would prove ultimately more successful than digging ourselves deeper in the quicksand that Iraq has become.

Furthermore, I will support any proposal that comes before Congress that would block funding for the implementation of escalation. I will support the effort by Senator KENNEDY and my colleague ED MARKEY to require the authorization of Congress before the President escalates this war.

As the daughter of a soldier and the sister of a soldier, I will always support our troops. It has become clear to just about everyone but the President that the best way now to support the troops is not to send more into the Iraqi Civil War—the best way to support them is to bring them home.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam, Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as they host the New York Metropolitan Area Founders Day Celebration on January 13, 2007. The Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter has been outstanding in its service of the Brooklyn community for over 50 years and I am privileged to have such a dedicated group of individuals in my district.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded on January 13, 1913 by 22 collegiate women at Howard University. These students wanted to use their collective strength to promote academic excellence and to provide assistance to persons in need. The first public act performed by the Delta Founders was in 1913 at the Women's Suffrage March in Washington D.C.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization whose goal is to provide assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. A sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately Black college educated women, the Sorority currently has over 900 chapters located in the United States, England, Japan (Tokyo and Okinawa), Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the Republic of Korea. The major programs of the sorority are based upon the organization's Five Point Thrust of: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health and Political Awareness and Involvement.

The theme of this special event is “Keeping our History: Past, Present and Future.” This is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the life and achievements of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this coming week.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to recognize the impressive achievements of Bernadette Walker, President of the Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter as well as the co-chairs of Founders Day, Valerie White and Natalia S. Young, for their commitment to the Brooklyn community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful group of Americans and the great things they stand for.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CURES CAN BE FOUND ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Cures Can Be Found Act. This legislation promotes medical research by providing a tax credit for investments and donations to promote adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, and provides a \$2,000 tax credit to new parents for the donation of umbilical cord blood that can be used to extract stem cells.

Madam Speaker, stem cell research has the potential to revolutionize medicine. Stem cells could hold the keys to curing many diseases afflicting millions of Americans, such as diabetes and Alzheimer's. Umbilical cord blood stem cells have already been used to treat 67 diseases, including sickle cell disease, leukemia, and osteoporosis. Umbilical cord blood stem cells have also proven useful in treating spinal cord injuries and certain neurological disorders. Adult stem cells have shown promise in treating a wide variety of diseases ranging from brain, breast, testicular, and other types of cancers to multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's, heart damage, and rheumatoid arthritis. Just this week, the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times ran major stories on the progress made in obtaining stem cells from amniotic fluid, which is easily obtainable from a pregnant woman during routine pre-natal tests.

By providing tax incentives for adult and umbilical cord blood stem cell research, the Cures Can Be Found Act will ensure greater resources are devoted to this valuable research. The tax credit for donations of umbilical cord blood will ensure that medical science has a continuous supply of stem cells. Thus, this bill will help scientists discover new cures using stem cells and, hopefully, make routine the use of stem cells to treat formally incurable diseases.

By encouraging private medical research, the Cures Can Be Found Act enhances a tradition of private medical research that is responsible for many medical breakthroughs. For example, Jonas Salk, discoverer of the polio vaccine, did not receive one dollar from the federal government for his efforts. I urge my colleagues to help the American people support the efforts of future Jonas Salks by cosponsoring the Cures Can Be Found Act.

FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 10, 2007

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my pleasure that the House has passed H.R. 2, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007. Nearly nine out of ten Americans believe that it is time to increase the minimum wage, and I could not agree more.

An increase in the minimum wage is long overdue. The minimum wage has not been increased in almost 10 years. This is the longest Americans have had to wait for an increase in the minimum wage since the original law was enacted in 1938.

While Americans have been waiting for an increase in the minimum wage, the cost of most necessities has risen. The fact is, the real value of the current minimum wage is the lowest it has been in over 50 years. Meanwhile, the costs of health care, gasoline and a college education are rising, and families in my District are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet.

An increase in the minimum wage will have a particularly beneficial impact on women, especially single mothers. The majority of minimum wage earners are women and common