

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, December 18, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this legislation improves the availability of Federal housing monies to Native Americans. It makes the requirements applicable to Indian tribes and their housing entities under the Housing Act of 1949 consistent with the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act; allows Indian tribes to have access to YouthBuild program grants; and makes technical corrections to NAHASDA to remove impediments to getting funds that serve no purpose.

There is no question that this bill, and any bill that improves Federal housing assistance to Native Americans, is sorely needed. Native Americans have an overall poverty rate twice that of the rest of the United States. In particular, they face a dramatic shortage of safe and adequate housing. Some 90,000 Native-American families are homeless or live in very poor conditions. Even among those who have housing, about a third of Native American homes lack adequate sewage systems, and 8 percent do not have safe drinking-water systems.

For that reason, this bill—introduced by Mr. RENZI and Mr. MATHESON—has received strong bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. The House passed the bill by voice vote on April 6, and the Senate passed its version on November 8, also by voice vote. Our passage of the Senate version today sends this to the President's desk.

Essentially, this bill ensures that Indian tribes seeking housing assistance from the Federal Government are not caught between conflicting and preclusive requirements of different Federal agencies administering different Federal acts.

Also, the bill makes Indian tribes eligible for Youthbuild grants. These grants are part of a HUD program that provides job training and academic assistance to low-income young people. Again, this is sorely needed by Native American youth.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPRO- PRIATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 THROUGH 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, December 17, 2005*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report

reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. I am pleased VAWA will be given floor consideration before Congress adjourns this session.

Ending family and community violence in this country requires an on-going commitment from Congress. Our obligation as legislators and citizens is to provide the tools to prevent family violence, and where violence has occurred, support services that provide the needed shelter and support to victims. Furthermore, the perpetrators of family violence must receive both significant punishments as well as the necessary interventions to prevent recidivism. Our goal must be to end the cycle of family violence in our communities and that will require comprehensive intervention and prevention strategies.

This reauthorization is critical in encouraging collaborative efforts among law enforcement officials, the courts, and service providers who work with victims of domestic and sexual violence. We must continue to increase public awareness of domestic violence, while addressing the individual and unique experiences of victims of domestic and sexual violence, including the needs of immigrant populations and people of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds, the disabled, and children. As a Nation, we must do what we can to end the cycle of violence that exists in too many homes and communities across the country and to assist the families and children who are living day to day in fear and isolation.

VAWA is a landmark piece of legislation that has been successful. It has brought a voice to those who had been silenced and shelter to those who were in need of a safe place. And, there is still work to be done. For example, while this bipartisan authorization bill is critical to moving the issue forward, adequate funding for services for families affected by violence must also be a priority for this Congress.

On a personal note, my daughter, Katie, has recently started a career in providing services to victims of family violence. From the frequent stories she tells me about working in a shelter for women, it is clearly a challenging but also very rewarding career path she has chosen. I applaud Katie and all of the women and men who have committed their professional careers or volunteer hours to serving our neighbors and community members who have found themselves victims of domestic violence. Their dedication makes communities across America stronger, more caring and more peaceful.

It is in honor of the survivors of violence and those who serve them that I stand today in support of Congress's role in providing services and support for survivors of domestic and sexual violence through the reauthorization of VAWA.

### HONORING THE LINKS, INC. OAKLAND BAY AREA CHAPTER

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 22, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Links, Inc. Oakland Bay Area Chapter on the occasion of its 55th year of service to our community.

The Links, Inc. was founded in 1946 by Sarah Scott and Margaret Hawkins of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who envisioned an organization of African American women "linking together in a chain" to improve the quality of life in their community. Today, that vision has been realized, with The Links, Inc. being comprised of 296 chapters and more than 10,000 women as its members. The Links, Inc. is located in 39 U.S. States, as well as in the Bahamas and in Germany.

The Oakland Bay Area chapter of The Links, Inc. was founded in September 1950 when eighteen inspired women saw a need in our community and joined together to make a positive difference. Currently, there are more than fifty dedicated women who are members of this chapter which, since its founding, has worked continuously to support charitable organizations and community groups.

Each year, often times on the occasion of its Annual Cotillion, the Oakland Bay Area Chapter of The Links, Inc. presents philanthropic grants to a number of community and public organizations, particularly those that focus on youth & family development, community health, social justice, education, and the arts.

This year will mark the Oakland Bay Area Chapter of The Links, Inc.'s 50th Annual Cotillion. These events feature not only the community services of The Links and other organizations, but also the selection of each year's Debutantes. These young women are selected based on excellence in academics and extracurricular activities, as well as for a strong commitment to serving their community.

The list of Debutantes who will be featured at the Oakland Bay Area Chapter of The Links, Inc.'s 2005 Cotillion include: Ashley Burns, Ebony Campbell, Jessica Charles, Mickala Cheadle, Kimberly Clincy, Raphael Cobb, Robyn Cross, Kristen Davis, Vanessa Domenichelli, Dominique Drakeford, Joya Dupre, Morgan Frazier, Laura Green, Ashley Greene, Jazmyn Hammons, Victoria Harrell, Britney Jaymes Harrison, Jenevieve Harrison-Toney, Yasmine Hassan, Aleha Jones, Jamela Joseph, Danielle Oliva, Brittany Pakeman, Jessica Pugh, Lauren Savage, Ashley Sewell, Ashley Shaw, Kaitlyn Sheehan, Jade Smith-Williams, Allison Greer Tillman, Mareesa Allyse Valentine, Erika Walker, Tierra Williams, and Erica Williams.

On Saturday, December 17, 2005, the Oakland Bay Area Links 50th Annual Cotillion will be held in San Francisco, California. On behalf of the California's 9th U.S. Congressional

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.