

than those affected by AIDS, Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Sickle Cell Anemia and Cystic Fibrosis combined. In Southern California alone, more than 100,000 people suffer from this disease. Although lupus can affect people of all ages, it strikes primarily women between the ages of 16–45, and is currently the fourth leading cause of disability in females.

To date, there is no known cure for lupus, and there are still very few treatments specific to the disease. However, with increased public awareness, education, and innovative research, we are hopeful that this battle can and will be won. Lupus International, a nonprofit organization in Irvine, California, has been a champion in the field of lupus research since it was founded in 1983. For over two decades, Lupus International has worked to alleviate suffering for millions of patients through support services, awareness promotion, and early detection of undiagnosed cases.

On October 17, 2004, Lupus International held its fifth annual “Lupus Race for Life,” to raise money for lupus research. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring this outstanding organization for its 20 year commitment to finding a cure for lupus, and its tremendous service to the millions of Americans suffering from this devastating disease.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 20, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to protest the inclusion of the federal refusal clause in the FY2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill. As a strong supporter of a woman's constitutionally guaranteed right to choose, I fear that this provision chips away at this right and will place women's health in jeopardy.

A woman's right to exercise control over her own body and to make her own health care decisions is vitally important. This right, as guaranteed by the United States Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*, has been the target of systematic attacks in recent years. This most recent attack—the federal refusal clause—is particularly egregious due to its radical change of current law.

The federal refusal clause allows a broad range of health care entities to refuse to comply with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations pertaining to abortion services. The bill severely limits patients' rights and access to services and information, thereby impeding their ability to make informed decisions about their health care options.

This drastic departure from current law will have devastating effects on countless women. This clause would change existing law to say that federal, state, and local governments may not require a health care entity to perform, provide coverage of, pay for, or even refer for abortions. Further, the clause was drafted so as to encompass the broadest possible range of health care entities, including insurance companies, hospitals, HMOs, and many others.

This clause will be far-reaching. It will override federal Title X guidelines ensuring women

receive full information. It will strip states of their ability to set the parameters of their own Medicaid programs. It will block states' attempts to improve women's access to full reproductive health services.

But most disturbing, the end result of this clause will be that women will be prevented from obtaining the reproductive health information and care they need and deserve.

This radical change is unacceptable and I hope that my colleagues will join me in working to repeal this dangerous provision.

A TRIBUTE TO LYDIA PATRICIA IRBY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 24, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lydia Patricia Irby for her spiritual leadership and varied efforts to strengthen the community.

Lydia Patricia Irby was born on December 11, 1952. She has been married 26 years to Minister Willie H. Irby and is the proud mom of her “royal court,” 3 beautiful princesses, Kiwana Yiesha Simon-Garcia, Nikkia Latanya George-Caquias, Kristina Dawn Irby and one handsome prince, Adam Benjamin Irby. She is also proud of her grandchildren, the lovely Jordan Lydia Garcia, and her handsome grandsons Taiwan Michael Simon, Christopher Todd Caquias, and Jeremiah Justin Caquias. They are “the sweetest sugars in her life”.

Lydia answered the call of God upon her life 27 years ago, when she was filled with the Holy Spirit and called into the ministry of Missionary and Evangelist. She has carried the word of the Lord throughout these United States, Canada, and Jamaica. She is a faithful member of Brooklyn Miracle Temple under the anointed leadership of Pastor Jimmy Talton and Lady Daisy Talton. The “Voice of God” and the BMT experience have brought her to another level of ministry. Lydia and her husband are the visionaries for a thriving clothing and food ministry, which meets the needs of people in the community.

Lydia is a very industrious woman, “true to her biblical name.” She is an international millinery designer, a parent coordinator, conflict resolution specialist, and coordinator of student activities at the Brooklyn High School of the Arts. She has worked in successful partnerships with Principal Robert Finly for the past five years.

She also has a diverse educational and occupational background and training including work as a licensed stockbroker for 12 years through the New York State Institute of Finance, seven years in licensed real estate management in the City of New York, certification in conflict resolution and mediation at Long Island University and successful completion of academic requirements as a Bible teacher at The Total Truth Institute. However, when is its all said and done Lydia's heartfelt desire is simply to live a life that is pleasing and acceptable to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Her motto is: “I will leave the life of everything and everybody that I touch better than when I found it.”

Mr. Speaker, Lydia Patricia Irby has been a leader in our community through her spiritual

leadership and civic participation to improve the quality of life in Brooklyn. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

CONGRATULATING BOSTON RED SOX ON WINNING THE 2004 WORLD SERIES

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Boston Red Sox on their historic World Series Championship, and I want to thank my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. Capuano, for his continued—and, I might add, longstanding—leadership on this issue.

I must admit this moment is somewhat bittersweet. As a lifelong fan of the New York Yankees, winners of 26 titles and 6 American League East division titles in a row, I had become accustomed to the annual October routine of dispatching the Red Sox—often in the most heartbreaking of fashions.

As such, I have always treasured moments like Bucky Dent hitting his game-winning home run off Mike Torrez in a sudden death playoff game against the Red Sox in 1978. Last year had been particularly satisfying, as the Yankees had triumphed over the Red Sox in Game 7 of the American League Championship Series with Aaron Boone's extra-inning homerun after having stormed back against a seemingly dominant Pedro Martinez.

And this year, the Yankees seemed poised yet again to break the collective heart of Red Sox Nation—having outmaneuvered Boston to trade for Alex Rodriguez in the off-season before staking a three-games-to-none lead in the American League Championship. No baseball team had ever come back from a three-game deficit in a best-of-seven series. And with a crippling injury to Curt Schilling's ankle in Game 1 and a 19-to-8 drubbing of the Red Sox at Fenway Park in Game 3, it seemed once again that the fabled Curse of the Bambino would be making its annual devastating appearance.

Yet then, the impossible happened—in what even this ardent Yankee fan must admit was thrilling, historic fashion, the Red Sox won the next 4 games and the series.

And so, with their defeat of not only the Yankees but also their commanding 4-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals, I join my New England colleagues in congratulating the Boston Red Sox for rewarding the fans of Red Sox Nation with their first World Series title in 86 years. I, for one, will miss the “Nineteen-Eighteen” chants for sure, but life will go on. Even if the Red Sox are the very best baseball team in the world right now, I know that a return to Yankee domination is but 4 short months away. So, we will give you this one.

Let me again thank my colleagues—I can only hope that they will join me here next year as we return to our annual practice congratulating the Yankees.