

citizens with the dubious proposition of having to seek a legislative solution after having won in court. It further requires the impossible task of timing the court decision such that it is issued only after the passage of the legislation in order to be sure that the new law protects them (retroactivity is frowned upon in the House).

The real issues are: Should any legislature ever be deciding the relative merit of any civil dispute over any other civil dispute by creating rapacious tax laws and then establishing exemptions? (As soon as they do so, they create violations of equal protection and access.) Should the government ever be entitled to a share of what a jury has decided is the amount required to restore a plaintiff to equilibrium? (Every dollar taxed on an award is a dollar subtraction from that plaintiff's restoration as determined by a jury after due deliberation over all facts pertinent to the case—justice becomes impossible as a practical and mathematical matter.) Should attorneys' fees be taxed to plaintiffs? (The government is going to tax that amount to the attorney. When the attorney is retained on a contingency basis, both attorney and plaintiff are entering into a transaction that is high risk with no gain for either unless they win at court. And, it is the courts, Congress, and state legislators that set the conditions under which requiring an attorney for any court proceeding is mandated as a practical matter for most citizens.)

If the answer to each of the above questions is "no" (and I think a reasonable man would conclude that is the correct answer for each of question), then the proper legislative response is easy: Define attorneys' fees as belonging to attorneys; and, do away with taxes on awards.

If both of those actions are taken, plaintiffs with bona fide complaints rightfully will enjoy a full measure of restoration to equilibrium as determined by a jury of their peers. Admittedly, that allows for occasionally rewarding miscreants. The alternative ensures penalizing law-abiding citizens who have already suffered.

Adopting the above leaves unsettled how to discourage frivolous cases. There are other ways to do that including award limits, and attorney fee caps. However, the solution cannot and must not include provisions that deny justice and impose further penalties on law-abiding citizens who appeal to their governments.

As these things are contemplated, a figurative call to arms is in order. Taxes imposed on individual citizens across the breadth of the original Thirteen Colonies in our early history were only a fraction of the burden thrust on individual contemporary citizens now carrying these burdens. These unjustly treated citizens already number in thousands; and their numbers will grow rapidly as the effects of the Supreme Court decision become felt.

It is hard to conceive of a single congressional district left unaffected. Corrective action should be swift.

Citizens that must contend with government taxes and tax collecting agencies of the government after prevailing in court are denied justice. Allowing them to negotiate to a reduced amount after the fact is neither justice nor a solution—it is a mockery and refutation of the most fundamental principles which gave birth to our great country and for which patriots gave their lives.

In contemplating concepts of taxing justice, it is appropriate to recall that plaintiffs seek court resolution as an alternative to violence; that they pay in advance for their "day in court" through normal taxes; that in entering the court, they demonstrate tremendous faith in their fellow citizens and

government; that the aim of the court is to return prevailing plaintiffs to equilibrium; and that if plaintiffs are successful, they are entitled to an assumption of having brought a bona fide complaint. To require more is to delay justice, and in that regard, it is well to remember William Gladstone's words: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Or as Theodore Roosevelt said, "Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong." Leaving citizens stranded in bewildering circumstances that destroy the pursuit of happiness and is brought about by poorly thought out government action is wrong. Correcting quickly is right.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOMAS J. SEMANCHIK

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the entire Semanchik Family on Thomas J. Semanchik achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Thomas is the fifth Semanchik family member to receive the prestigious honor, carrying on the tradition set by his father and three older brothers.

John Semanchik III, Thomas's father, first received the rank of Eagle Scout on January 9th, 1969. He currently is ranked an Eagle Scout with three palms, has been the presiding Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop #171 for 10 years and received the Silver Beaver Award, the Boy Scouts of America's highest distinction. Thomas's oldest brother, John Semanchik IV is currently a 3 palm Eagle Scout, after receiving the rank on June 2nd, 1998. Michael Semanchik, currently an Eagle Scout with 6 palms, received the rank June 8th, 1999 while Robert Semanchik became an Eagle Scout with 9 palms on December 3rd, 2002.

The award ceremony will be held June 7th at Ingomar Methodist Church beginning at 6:30 p.m. Sadly, Janet M. Semanchik, the late wife of John and mother of the Semanchik boys will not be able to witness the rank being bestowed on her youngest son. Janet succumbed to cancer in 2003. However, her spirit still lives on in the lives and actions of the Semanchik men. I believe that it is safe to say Janet would be proud of all of her Eagle Scouts.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Semanchik family. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of citizens like these men who personify civic pride and who truly make the communities that they live in better.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID P. SKINNER

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exceptional service of Dr. David Skinner to the United States Navy.

Dr. Skinner is retiring at the end of May after more than three decades of service at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City (NSWCPC). Dr. Skinner has served the Navy most recently, with a national focus as the NAVSEA Product Area Director for Littoral Warfare Systems. In this capacity, Dr. Skinner was responsible for all activities in the Naval Surface Warfare Center supporting Navy and Marine Corps' operations in the littoral environment. Systems developed at NSWCPC are currently in service today helping fight the global war on terrorism.

Dr. Skinner's service has played a pivotal role in the development of systems in use today across the NSWCPC mission spectrum. His accomplishments in this leadership role have produced many results including the next generation of modular air and surface mine countermeasures systems, soon to be introduced to the Fleet; (2) Fleet introduction of the Gator Class Swimmer Delivery Vehicle; (3) Fleet introduction of a Landing Craft, Air Cushion (LCAC) with fully integrated fly-by-wire communications suite and craft control system; (4) installation of Fire Fighter Breathing Apparatus systems on all Navy ships and submarines and Coast Guard ships; (5) establishment of, and technical support for the Deployable Joint Command and Control Program Office in Panama City; and (5) unmanned underwater vehicles, computer-aided detection and classification techniques, and electro-optic sensors for mine detection, classification and identification, respectively.

During his career, Dr. Skinner held leadership roles at NSWCPC including Head of the Nonacoustic Division, Deputy Head of the Engineering Test and Evaluation Department, Head of the Submarine Undersea Weapons Defense Program, Head of the Coastal Research and Technology Department, and Executive Director of the Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City.

Dr. Skinner received the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award in 2001, the Presidential Meritorious Executive Award in 2002, and the NDIA David Bushnell Award in 2005. Dr. Skinner has authored or co-authored more than 30 publications and holds a patent for the Naval Continuous Tone Frequency Modulated Sonar.

A native and resident of Panama City, Florida, Dr. Skinner is also a leader in his community. His activities include working with the youth at Northside Baptist Church and coaching both youth soccer and basketball. Dr. Skinner is also a former ex-officio board member of the Coastal Operations Institute.

I invite my distinguished colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Skinner for his invaluable service to the United States Navy. His work has made, and is making, a difference to our troops and our country. He will be deeply missed. We wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS, BEAVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Beaver United Methodist Church of Beaver, Pennsylvania on its 175th anniversary.

The Beaver United Methodist Church will celebrate two momentous anniversaries this year. Not only will the congregation celebrate the 175th anniversary of its first meeting, but they will celebrate the 100th anniversary of meeting in its current location in Beaver, Pennsylvania. The church will celebrate these anniversaries with two months of activities, including plays and music recitals.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the congregation of Beaver United Methodist Church in Beaver, Pennsylvania. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an enduring institution like Beaver United Methodist Church.

PATIENT NAVIGATOR, OUTREACH  
AND CHRONIC DISEASE PREVEN-  
TION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. BROWN, as well as Mr. DINGELL, the Ranking Member on the Energy and Commerce Committee; Chairman BARTON; Mr. DEAL, the Chairman on the Health Subcommittee; and all of their staff. And I particularly want to thank my good friend and lead cosponsor, DEBORAH PRYCE, and her staff who have been actively engaged in this effort and have been instrumental in getting this bill to the Floor today. And, of course, her own personal experiences and her family's struggle with cancer have made her such a powerful advocate in this regard. This is truly a bipartisan effort and a case study in how—if we choose to work together, across the aisle—we can really make a difference.

And we cannot talk about patient navigators without thanking Drs. Harold Freeman, Elmer Huerta, and Gil Friedell, who have been pioneers in creating patient navigator programs that can be replicated across the country—which is exactly what we're doing today.

There is no question that we have a health care crisis in this country. Not only does the cost of our nation's health care system discourage people from getting the care they need, but the sheer complexity of the system can be so overwhelming that patients don't even know what their treatment options are.

The Patient Navigator bill addresses these issues, as well as other barriers that America's families—just like New Jersey's families—face in getting the health care they need and deserve. The bill encourages prevention and early detection in order to keep the costs of health care down, and provides a patient navigator to help families navigate the complex health care system so that they get the best treatment options available when a family member is diagnosed with cancer or another chronic disease.

It will ensure that all Americans, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, language, or geography, will have access to prevention screening and treatment, and that they will have an advocate at their side, helping them navigate through today's complicated health care system.

For example, a mother who has just been told that she could have breast cancer and needs to see a specialist would benefit from a patient navigator who would help her under-

stand her diagnosis, make sure she follows through and sees the doctor, and identify health coverage options that might be available to help with the cost of her treatment. And, because that mother heard about the importance of getting regular check-ups, hopefully her cancer will be found at a much earlier stage, giving her a much better chance of survival and giving her family a better chance at a long, healthy life together.

The bill addresses what I believe are the root causes of health disparities in minority and underserved communities: that's lack of access to health care, particularly prevention and early detection. The bottom line is: the only way to stay healthy is to see a doctor when you are healthy. Unfortunately, patients in underserved communities are less likely to receive early screening and detection, so their disease is found at a much later stage and they have less chance of survival. That's why we're here today—to give those people the chance they deserve for a long, healthy life.

The Patient Navigator bill does this by replicating the successful models developed by Drs. Freeman, Huerta, and Friedell in a national demonstration project. It focuses on outreach and prevention, through Community Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Indian Health Clinics, and cancer clinics. And it does so by providing patient navigator services and outreach in health disparity communities to encourage people to get screened early so that they can receive the care they need. Patient navigators educate and empower patients, serving as their advocates in navigating the health care system.

In addition to having visited both Dr. Freeman's program in Harlem and Dr. Huerta's program here in Washington, my constituents in New Jersey and I have seen first-hand the difference patient navigators can make in a community. I was able to secure funding for a one-year demonstration project at a Community Health Center in Jersey City, New Jersey. That program has screened more than 1,400 people and has a caseload of about 300 patients who were identified through these screenings with abnormal findings and are currently benefiting from the help of the patient navigator in finding follow-up care and treatment.

And before I close I want to share one of the most compelling stories I've heard and one of the reasons I've worked so hard to make this program a reality for more Americans. It's the story about Hazel Hailey, one of the patient navigators in New Jersey, and her daughter, Robin Waiters. Robin, who was only 36 years old, suffered severe stomach pains for 2 years and refused to see a doctor, despite her mother's pleas for her to seek medical care. Finally, she had no choice but to go see a doctor. Tragically, 3 months later, Robin died from colorectal cancer. Her mother, Hazel, tells about her daughter's last request—she made her mom promise to tell all her friends, family and everyone she could “that if your body is trying to tell you something, listen to it. You could possibly save your life.” Hazel quotes her daughter as saying, “I am dying because I chose not to get help. Fear set in and I lost out on life.” Hazel is fulfilling her promise to her daughter as a patient navigator, working every day to ensure that what happened to her daughter doesn't happen to other families. And that's why we're here today, to ensure that the Hazels across the country have the tools they need to educate and empower people about the importance of early detection and screening, and to help them navigate the complexities of the

health care system so that they get the treatment and follow-up care they need.

Again, I want to thank my colleague DEBORAH PRYCE for all of her work on this effort, as well as all of those who have worked behind the scenes to make this concept a reality. We have strong bipartisan support for this bill in both the House and Senate, and I am more optimistic than ever before that we can make this program a reality and help families struggling to afford their health care and to understand the complex system in order to get the care they need. There's simply too much at stake if we don't act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRIS  
COLLIER

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Chris Collier on being named the 2005 Lawrence County Entrepreneur of the Year.

Chris is the President of S&S Processing, a company that he established in 1990, which is located in West Pittsburg. Mr. Collier, after acquiring the mining rights to a large plot of land along the Little Beaver River, has turned his company into one of the largest suppliers of specialty soils in the Tri-State area. S&S Processing distributes specialty soils for athletic fields and playgrounds, while also providing custom blended soils, premium top-soils and composts to architects, engineers and contractors.

Mr. Collier will be honored at the 2005 Lawrence County Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Dinner to be held at the New Englander Banquet Center in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Chris was selected as the 2005 winner because he personifies the entrepreneurial spirit that is so prevalent in the Lawrence County Area. Mr. Collier has indeed had a significant impact on the community as a whole and has provided the young people of Lawrence County a rich example of what it takes to be a successful business owner.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Chris Collier. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as Chris who add so much to the community in which they live.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes numbers 241 and 242. Had I been present, I would have voted:

“Aye” on rollcall number 241, S. 643—A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State mediation programs,

“Aye” on rollcall number 242, H.R. 2326—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 614 West Old County Road in Belhaven, North Carolina, as the “Floyd Lupton Post Office.”