

budget cuts trim funding for arts and music education in the Milwaukee Public Schools, MYSO has created new programs that ensure everyone has the opportunity to learn about and appreciate music. Programs like Progressions and MYSO Jazz Studies bring instrumental instruction and ensemble performance to students who might otherwise never have the opportunity to play an instrument or learn to read music. Together with several other youth arts organizations, MYSO collaborated to develop the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, creating a dedicated space for youth arts that fosters excellence and honors the creative talents of Milwaukee-area youth. This project has contributed to the revitalization of a key central city neighborhood.

For all of these good works, I am honored to commend the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. I thank them for 50 years of exemplary leadership and teaching, and look forward to their continued efforts to provide Milwaukee's youth with outstanding arts education.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE ROSE  
MYERS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly exemplary student and constituent as she prepares to graduate from C.A. Johnson Preparatory Academy on May 23, 2006. Not only is Katherine Rose Myers valedictorian of her high school, she is a student leader among leaders and an outstanding example for all young people.

Katherine is the daughter of Kenneth Myers, Sr. and Emma McGraw Myers of Columbia, South Carolina. She has grown up in the same home where her mother was raised. However, she made a different choice than her mother regarding her high school education. Katherine's mother helped integrate a nearby high school during the early days of desegregation. Although Katherine could have chosen to attend any high school in her school district, she chose to go to C.A. Johnson, the neighborhood school. She felt very strongly about her choice, telling the local newspaper "It's my community and it's a nurturing environment."

It is certainly an environment in which Katherine thrived. Academically, she earned a 4.93 grade point average and has been recognized as a National Achievement Finalist, Palmetto Fellow Scholar and an Academic All-Star. Outside the classroom, Katherine has been a student leader as well. Her peers elected her to serve as Student Body President, and she is on the leadership team of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She is a varsity member of the Lady Hornets Basketball team and the track team. During the summer of 2005, Katherine was chosen to attend the prestigious Palmetto Girls State where she was chosen by her peers to serve as Governor. To honor this significant accomplishment Columbia City Council proclaimed October 5, 2005 Katherine Myers Day and awarded her the key to the city.

Despite all of these accomplishments, Katherine still finds the time to contribute to her

community. She is the former state vice president of the L.M. Atkinson Federated Youth Club Ladies of Essence and a Senior Cadette in the Girl Scouts Council of the Congaree Area. She also sings in the W.H. Neal Youth Choir at First Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia.

This fall, Katherine will attend Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina as the recipient of the Herman W. Lay Scholarship, and will study political science. Prior to beginning her college experience, Katherine has already been selected to be one of ten Furman incoming freshmen to study in China for three weeks in July.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in commending Katherine Rose Myers as a leader of tomorrow. She has demonstrated that she will be a young person to watch in the coming years, and I will certainly be following her progress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE EQUITABLE TREATMENT ACT OF 2006"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Energy, DOE, recently announced that it will no longer reimburse its contractors for the cost of providing defined benefit pensions for new employees. Beginning in March 2007, contractors will only be reimbursed for defined contribution, 401(k)-type plans. Furthermore, DOE will only reimburse for a "market-based medical benefit plan," thus encouraging contractors who provide comprehensive medical coverage for their employees to drop or reduce that coverage. In short, the DOE's action is a direct threat to workers' retirement and health care security.

That is why I rise today to introduce legislation to put an immediate halt to this policy. At a time when even well-funded companies are choosing to terminate their pension plans and Congress is struggling to find ways to encourage employers to provide meaningful health and retirement benefits to workers, penalizing federal contractors for offering guaranteed retirement benefits and quality health insurance is hypocritical and counterproductive. This bill, "the Department of Energy Contractor Employee Equitable Treatment Act of 2006," will simply prevent DOE from using its funds to implement this wrong-headed proposal.

According to a Department press release, the purpose of the new policy is "based on sound business practices and market-based benchmarks for cost management." However, at a speech at the National Press Club in January of last year, Labor Secretary Elaine Chao claimed that "President Bush has made retirement security one of the highest priorities of his second term. A critical component of his agenda is ensuring that the defined benefit pension system is viable and that the promises made to the workers enrolled in these plans are kept." This new DOE policy, particularly after the President's effort to privatize Social Security, contradicts that statement and reveals a true agenda of undermining guaranteed retirement benefits.

The DOE rationale—that defined benefit pension plans are too volatile—is particularly ironic given the pressure the Bush Administration is pushing for a House-Senate pension conference bill to change pension law in ways that will make the cost of a pension plan higher and less predictable.

Moreover, by tying reimbursement to a "market based medical benefit plan," the DOE encourages contractors who provide comprehensive medical coverage to reduce such coverage and to further shift health care cost burdens onto employees, rather than addressing rising health care costs. The DOE directive requires all contractors to make clear that they can "unilaterally change, suspend, or terminate any medical plan, coverage or contribution at any time." It further limits the conditions under which retirees may receive retiree health benefit coverage. Encouraging the loss or reduction of health benefits of any workers or retirees, including workers and retirees serving our country at nuclear facilities, is just plain wrong.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

IN HONOR OF DR. DANIEL R.  
MISHELL, JR. ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Daniel R. Mishell, Jr., an outstanding physician and pioneer in the field of women's health. This Saturday, May 13, 2006, family, friends and admirers will gather to celebrate Dr. Mishell's 75th birthday—which occurred on May 7—and salute his many achievements as husband, father and consummate professional.

Daniel Mishell, Jr., earned his BA with great distinction in 1952 and his medical degree in 1955 from Stanford University. As a faculty member at the University of California, Los Angeles in the 1960s, Dr. Mishell's breakthrough research resulted in the first pregnancy tests in the United States not involving animals. In 1969, he joined the faculty of the University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine. As the Lyle G. McNeile Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and as its chairman from 1978 to 2005, Dr. Mishell has left an indelible hand print upon this nationally recognized institution of women's health.

Throughout his career, Dr. Mishell has held several prominent national posts and consulted internationally throughout the years in the field of obstetrics and gynecology. Since 1970, he has served as editor-in-chief of *Contraception*, the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals' official journal. He served as president of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 1986 to 1990 and then as its chairman from 1990 to 1994. In 2003, he was elected as a fellow ad eundem of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Great Britain. Respected as an international trailblazer in his field, Dr. Mishell led the World Health Organization's only clinical research and training center for